

STARS AND STRIPES®

**'JAG' works
Iraq war
into its plot**

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Actress
Catherine
Bell
in "JAG"

**Yokota Popeyes
relocating
to food court**

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Boston
College
guard
Jared
Dudley

**BC streak comes
to an end
in South Bend**

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Volume 63, No. 298 © SS 2005 J

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to STARS AND STRIPES, P.O. Box 11111, Fort Belvoir, IL 61711-1111. Phone: (815) 244-4444. Fax: (815) 244-4445. Email: stars@fortbelvoir.com

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U.S., China reportedly weigh military hot line

Nations look to prevent repeat of 2001 incident involving EP-3

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Lunar New Year:

A Chinese man and his daughter look at Lunar New Year decorations in Linfen City, China. The Year of the Rooster began Wednesday.

XINHUA/AP

Across Asia, Chinese celebrate
the Year of the Rooster

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Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Japanese beef ban: The United States has praised Japan's step toward partially lifting a ban on U.S. beef after a Japanese government panel accepted American assurances that a specific grade of meat would be free of mad cow disease.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns on Tuesday called the development an important step toward resuming trade.

The Bush administration on Monday proposed testing 40,000 animals in its 2006 budget-released Monday. The Japanese panel's decision, if accepted by Tokyo, will clear the way for Japan to begin importing U.S. grade A40 beef, which comes primarily from cattle aged 12 to 17 months.

Blair on IRA attacks: Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday issued a public apology to 11 people whose wrongful imprisonment for IRA bombings three decades ago was dramatized in the film "In the Name of the Father."

The people were jailed in connection with Irish Republican Army bombings in the English towns of Guildford and Woolwich in 1974, which killed a total of seven people and injured more than 100.

All 11 were subsequently acquitted.

Military

Air Force Academy alcohol abuse: Alcohol offenses at the Air Force Academy jumped 57 percent last semester, largely because of an incident in which 15 underage cadets were drinking at a retreat, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Gazette of Colorado Springs, citing academy officials, said there were 74 alcohol offenses between June and December, compared with 47 in the same period in 2003.

Alcohol is a crucial issue at the school near Colorado Springs.

U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe: A private arms control group says the United States still deploys 480 nuclear weapons in Europe, more than twice what military analysts previously estimated. It said there was no justification for such stockpiles.

The report by the Natural Resources Defense Council said the weapons are stored at eight bases in six countries — Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Turkey and the Netherlands.



KEITH BRYSKA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Tool review: Aviation Machinist's Mate Third Class Michael Heimberger from Perryville, Md., cleans and inspects tools Wednesday at Misawa Naval Air Facility, Japan. All tools in a work area must be inspected to ensure none are missing, so engines are clear of tools and other engine-damaging debris. Heimberger is attached to Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment, Misawa.

States

Jammed N.H. telephone lines: The former head of a Republican consulting group was sentenced Tuesday to five months in jail for jamming Democratic telephone lines in several New Hampshire cities during the 2002 election.

Allen Raymond, 37, who was president of the Alexandria, Va.-based GOP Marketplace LLC at the time, did not comment as he left the U.S. District Court sentencing. He also was fined \$15,600. He had pleaded guilty in June.

'Crazy for You' bears: The head of Vermont Teddy Bear Co. resigned from the board of Vermont's largest hospital Wednesday after coming under fire from mental health activists for selling a "Crazy for You" bear in a straitjacket.

The \$69.95 "Crazy for You" bear, which

comes with its own commitment papers, was designed as a humorous Valentine's Day gift, but was branded insensitive by Gov. James Douglas and advocates for the mentally ill.

Last month, Robert apologized to anyone offended by the bear, but said it would not be taken off the market. The company sold out of the bears last week and said it does not plan to manufacture any more.

Eric Rudolph case: A whistleblower who once sparked a major review of the FBI crime lab is helping serial bombing suspect Eric Rudolph fight death penalty charges by challenging the work of another federal agency, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Once the FBI's top expert on bomb residue, Frederic W. Whitehurst has supplied the Rudolph defense with a sworn statement questioning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' model of the nail-laden bomb that exploded outside a Birmingham abortion clinic in 1998.

Jury selection is set to begin late next month in Rudolph's trial.

Presidential public financing: Two election officials on Wednesday renewed a proposal to overhaul the Watergate-era presidential public financing system, this time suggesting that candidates who take taxpayer money for the primaries get to spend at the record levels President Bush and rival John Kerry did during last year's race.

The first step for Congress is deciding whether the system should be maintained or abolished, Federal Election Commission Chairman Scott Thomas and Vice Chairman Michael Toner wrote in a letter to congressional leaders. If it keeps public financing for the presidential race, the program should be substantially changed to make it more attractive to candidates, they said.

War on terrorism

Terror group leader's death: The alleged ringleader of a terrorist group accused of plotting to attack Americans and Kuwaiti security forces has died of heart failure while in prison, an Interior Ministry official said Wednesday.

Amer Khalif al-Enezi, believed to be in his 30s, had trouble breathing while in prison and was moved the Kuwaiti Armed Forces Hospital, where he died late Tuesday, according to the official and the state-owned Kuwait News Agency.

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Official: U.S., China working on hot line

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Nearly four years after a U.S. Navy spy plane was intercepted off China, the two nations are working on an agreement that would use a hot line between its defense departments and clarify a "rules of the road" when aircraft or ships encounter each other, according to a senior defense official.

If successful, the two-pronged effort would allow direct communication between the respective tops and bottoms of the two chains of command and, U.S. officials hope, diffuse future flashpoints.

Richard Lawless, the Pentagon chief of Asian affairs, led a team that met with Chinese brass in Beijing last week to discuss the proposals, according to the official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

U.S. leaders have raised the two ideas repeatedly in recent years, to no avail.

"We've been attempting to break the impasse" said the official. A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington declined to comment on the negotiations.

"If an agreement like this had been in place, then at least there would have been an avenue to talk [during and after the spy plane incident] but that avenue doesn't exist, even to this day," said Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Col. Greg Hicks. "We'll never know what the end result might have been, but it certainly would have been nice to have some sort of protocol in place for the two parties to talk to each other," said Hicks. And after the fact, had a hot line existed, it "would have made a huge differ-



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. and Chinese officials are reportedly working on an agreement that would establish "rules of the road" should their militaries' aircraft or ships encounter one another. Such an agreement would help avoid situations such as what happened in April 2001 when a Chinese Air Force forced down a U.S. Navy reconnaissance plane, the same model as this EP-3E Aries II shown flying near Japan's Mount Fuji.

ence" in getting the crew and aircraft released.

Lawless' visit follows a trip to China by Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Richard Myers a year ago and Pacific Command's chief Adm. Thomas Fargo's visit in July as relations between the two militaries have thawed since the EP-3 was forced down in April 2001.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld may soon use the weight of his office as well. Rumsfeld "has agreed in principle" to a trip to China sometime this year, said the official. (See related box)

Lost in translation

The U.S. and Chinese both signed the Military Maritime Con-

sultation Agreement in 1998, designed to provide clear instructions to pilots and warship captains when they meet their counterparts in international airspace and waters.

The details that were to follow — how to exchange calls signs and frequencies, even the use of hand and air signals — never materialized.

The Chinese, said the official, have insisted on first agreeing to what constitutes international waters and airspace. The Chinese claim 200 miles off their coastlines, while international norms limit territorial claims to 12 miles.

"That's a huge issue for them, I'd be really surprised, bordering on stunned, if they were willing to

Rumsfeld said to be open to making visit to China

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has agreed in principle to pay an official visit to China, a significant step toward revitalizing a military-to-military dialogue frozen into hiatus after a Navy surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter collided in international airspace in 2001.

"Secretary Rumsfeld is interested in visiting China this year," a senior Defense Department official said Tuesday. No final commitment had been made and no date has been set for a visit.

He said the most recent military and defense policy white paper released by the government in Beijing described in troubling ways the American military presence in the Pacific and characterized the security situation regarding Taiwan.

The American presence in the region "complicated security factors," The New York Times reported the Chinese military document as stating. And the situation in the pathway dividing Taiwan from the Chinese mainland is "grim," it added to complete.

During recent talks, Pentagon officials pressed their Chinese counterparts to explain those choices of words, which the Defense Department official described as "an escalation in the level of rhetoric."

The Chinese military's buildup across from Taiwan is "a substantial increase in capability" and "is an issue of concern to us," the official said.

In recent bilateral discussions, the question of expanding reciprocal visits has come up, with the American delegations pressing for improving the quality "of what we get to see and do," the official said.

separate that from the discussions," said Ted Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

It was that disagreement that led to the Chinese fighter pilot forcing the Navy's surveillance crew down in April 2001, following a series of confrontations between U.S. Navy planes and the Chinese Air Force. Three ten-ton-filled days passed before

they were released.

Now, said the defense official, "the Chinese are holding the MMCA semi-hostage" over the dispute.

The idea of a hot line from the Pentagon to the Chinese ministry of defense may be closer to reality. Instead of rebuffing the proposal during this latest visit, the Chinese now say they are "studying seriously" the concept, said the official.

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Military personnel's input sought for cost-of-living survey

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — An online survey provides a chance for servicemembers to input information the government uses to determine overseas cost-of-living allowances.

The Living Pattern Survey, put in motion by the U.S. Forces Japan Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee, is open through March 1, said Petty Officer 1st Class Billy Reynolds, LPS point-of-contact for the Sasebo area.

Reynolds said all single or married servicemembers with com-

mand-sponsored dependents living completely or in part on the local economy are eligible "and encouraged" to take part.

The LPS results help determine amounts of COLA paid to servicemembers stationed overseas. COLA is designed to allow such servicemembers to maintain the purchasing power they'd have if stationed in the United States.

An LPS usually is done every three years. USFJ had planned its next one for 2006, Reynolds said. It's done at other overseas locations around the world, too, but right now is being done only in Japan because of the fluctuations

in the strong yen/weak U.S. dollar conversion, he said. "So, instead of waiting another year, U.S. Forces Japan officials wanted the survey be done now, just two years since the last effort."

The current survey seeks participants at U.S. installations in mainland Japan and Okinawa, he said.

Civilians in Okinawa also are invited to take the survey but civilians in mainland Japan should not participate. The State Department is responsible for civilian post allowance surveys on the Japanese mainland but on Okinawa, that responsibility falls to the Defense Department.

"It's important that servicemembers sit down and take the time ... to fill out the survey and identify where they shop when they do so off base," said Army Lt. Col. Keith Muschalek, the USFJ country allowances coordinator at Yokota Air Base.

"The importance is in providing the right prices and other information we can use to make sure the COLA Index will reflect what they actually need" while on duty in Japan, he said.

USFJ's Living Pattern Survey

Servicemembers (and, on Okinawa only, civilians) who want to take the USFJ Living Pattern Survey must do so by March 1. The shopping questionnaire takes about 30 minutes to complete. To calculate installation cost-of-living allowances, officials use information gathered from the survey and other pricing comparisons.

A servicemember or spouse must enter the last six digits of the servicemember's Social Security number and the location code JA035 upon entering the survey.

The survey is online at <https://141.116.74.201/oscola/lps/japan/> — Staff reports

The LPS questions are meant to identify where and how goods and services are purchased off base. The information obtained is used in conjunction with a Retail Price Report — the one paired with this LPS is to occur in April — to form a basis for prescribing COLA in the various areas of Japan.

"Okinawa is considered all one area as far as COLA but COLA can differ at times in the mainland," Muschalek said. "The COLA for the Misawa area is likely different than in Yokosuka, and so on."

Reynolds said the survey doesn't ask how much items cost off base. "In April, we check into that when we send out teams to tally prices off-base" for the Retail

Price Report, he said. "The LPS does, however, ask for percentages of shopping people do on base, off base and online."

One comment field within the LPS allows for notations about any special considerations — regular payments of road tolls, buying produce off base that is fresher, paying routine parking fees — that factor into the cost of living in the locality, Reynolds said.

Sasebo servicemembers can call Reynolds at DSN 252-3664 for more information. At other bases, additional information can be obtained from calling your Personnel Services Department for additional information.

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Corrections

■ A photo caption in Wednesday's editions misspelled the city of Meulabou, Indonesia.

■ In a Feb. 10 story about a federal court ruling, The Associated Press erroneously reported that a judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging the Army's right to force soldiers to serve past the dates of their enlistments. Instead, the judge rejected Spc. David Qualis' request for a preliminary injunction that would have removed him from active duty. He and seven other soldiers had filed suit challenging their active duty extensions. That remains before the court.

Army pushes deployment test schedule

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army officials hope that more predictable deployment schedules for active duty soldiers, reservists and guardsmen will lead to a better-trained force with quicker response times.

Under a plan unveiled to Congress on Wednesday, active duty soldiers could expect two years at their home base after a year of deployment. Reservists would see five years of "dwell time" after each year in active duty service, and Guardsmen would have four to five years at home between deployments.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey said that plan likely won't go into effect until at least 2007, when other major training and force adaptations are complete. Officials want to shift the service to a brigade combat team focus over the next two years, growing from 33 brigades to 44.

But Harvey said more predictable de-

Plan calls for 1 year on, 2 years at home for active duty, 4-5 years at home for reserves

ployment schedules will create a better quality of life for soldiers by reducing stress on their families, which in turn will result in a more focused fighting force.

Of the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, between 40 percent and 50 percent are from the Guard and Reserve. The figure is set to drop to 30 percent for the next rotation, beginning this summer, because many combat-ready Guard units are tapped out.

Last year, Congress mandated a temporary increase of 30,000 soldiers to address those personnel concerns.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said that about 20,000 of those new soldiers have been recruited, and officials will have 2,000 new recruits in the coming year to reach the 30,000 goal and keep the personnel numbers steady.

"You can cut down 300,000 trees in no time, but it takes longer to grow 30,000 back," he said, noting that the Army dropped its active duty numbers by hundreds of thousands of soldiers after the first Gulf War.

Members of the House Armed Services Committee praised the overall force upgrades, but House Democrats criticized Army officials for what they called a short-sighted 2006 budget proposal that could leave the war on terror undermanned and the postwar Army poorly equipped.

"Frankly, looking at this budget, it occurs to me that we could win this war but come out worse for it if we're not careful," said Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, ranking Democrat of the House Armed Services Committee.

He warned that, unless permanent funding sources are found for new soldiers and equipment repairs, the Army could go back to "the hollow Army of the late 1970s and early 1980s ... when soldiers could not train because their equipment was so poor and spare parts were scarce."

The service's 2006 budget proposal, a \$98.6 billion plan that sets goals for training and upgrading the brigade system but does not include costs associated with combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Harvey acknowledged that will be paid for with a supplemental budget request, to be unveiled later this month. The supplemental will also be used to pay for the 30,000 new soldiers.

Harvey estimated that supplemental budgets will be needed to pay for equipment maintenance and other war-related expenses for at least two years after the Army withdraws from the Middle East.

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A new Popeyes fast-food restaurant is expected to open in the lower-level food court at the Yokota Community Center in Japan by Feb. 18.

Popeyes to be relocated to Yokota Community Center

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The lower-level food court inside the Yokota Community Center is about to get a fresh addition.

Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits, currently in Building 1299 on the base's west side, is moving into the spot formerly occupied by GNC, which was relocated to the second floor last fall. It'll sit alongside Taco Bell, Anthony's Pizza and Charley's Grilled Subs in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service lineup.

A grand-opening date hasn't been announced, but officials hope to begin operating in the new location by Feb. 18, said Plisha Bailey, the AAFES general manager for Yokota.

"That's our goal," she said. "We've had to push it back a little because the contractor has some things to finish up. We want to make sure it's safe for the community and everything is done properly."

"We may do a 'soft opening' and then offer some grand-opening specials later, something to welcome the relocated facility to the YCC and let the community know about it."

New equipment and registers are in place, she said, and a Popeyes sign has been unveiled at the food court. However, electrical and steam-line work must be completed,

and the restaurant also faces some final routine inspections.

When that's done, changeover will be instantaneous, with no interruption in operating hours, except for delivery service. Because AAFES officials originally had anticipated a Feb. 8 startup, they disconnected phones in Building 1299 and plugged them into the new store, Bailey said. So delivery orders will not be able to be called in until the new location is operating.

AAFES is spending more than \$500,000 on the relocation effort, according to Bailey.

The restaurant chain has been on Yokota's west side for more than a decade. Once it's cleared out, the old stand-alone structure will be demolished.

"It's basically outlived its life in that building," she said. "There's not much you can do to repair it and make it a better facility. We just need to get out of there."

With the new store in a heavily frequented part of base, officials hope the change in scenery boosts sales.

"There won't be a drive-through any more, but it'll be more convenient for the customers," Bailey said. "It was a little out of the way on the west side."

"This is more centrally located. People shopping in the BX or commissary who want to grab dinner too can have it all there under one roof."

E-mail Vince Little at: little@stripes.osd.mil

Toyota issues recall notice for popular Hilux Surf SUVs

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Americans who own Toyota Hilux Surf SUVs in Japan are being urged to visit their local Toyota dealers as part of a massive safety recall of the vehicles.

The recall notices on the popular sport utility vehicles were announced by Toyota in October. However, Americans in Japan under the status of forces agreement were not informed of the recall until this week.

The cars are being recalled because of steering problems, the Joint Services Vehicle Registration Office on Camp Foster announced Tuesday.

Toyota has announced a select recall of certain models of the Hilux Surf Sport Utility Vehicle from years 1988 to 1994.

On some of the cars, "the relay rod within the steering system has not much strength," read a statement in English from a Toyota dealer on Okinawa Wednesday. "If you make maximum steer, the relay rod, which mounts on pitman arm, may be focused on stress and may be damaged."

In such a case, the driver may not be able to control the steering, the warning stated. To arrange for repairs, car owners should contact their local Toyota dealer or their local base vehicle registration office.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@stripes.osd.mil

Recalled vehicles

The recall includes the following vehicles:

- Models S-LN107 and KB-LN107, frames LN107-0000007 to LN107-0025892;
- Models Y-LN107 and GA-YN107, frames YN107-0001001 to YN107-0002180;
- Models KB-LN1108, frames LN108-5000000 to YN108-50000675;
- Model KB-LN109, frames LN109-0001001 to LN109-0002837;
- Model Y-LN1112, frames LN112-0001001 to LN112-0001735;
- Model Q-LN130G, frames LN130-0000012 to LN130-0132778;
- Model Q-LN130W, frames LN130-7000000 to LN130-7050281;
- Model E-LN130G, frames YN130-0000009 to YN130-0009933;
- Models Y-KZN130W and Y-KZN130G, frames KZN130-0001001 to KZN130-0013646;
- Models KB-LN130W and KD-KZN130G, frames KZN130-9000000 to LN130-9074514;
- Model E-LN130G, frames VZN130-0009155 to VZN130-0220346 and VZN130-8050754 to VZN130-8090195;
- Model S-LN131V, frames LN131-0000005 to LN131-0003290 and LN131-9000000 to LN131-9000331.

Dental Health Awareness Month at Atsugi

In honor of Dental Health month, the Tooth Fairy and a team of dental professionals will make stops around Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, promoting good oral hygiene. The month will be capped by a Dental Fun Run called "Chase Away Decay Relay" on Feb. 25 for children in kindergarten to sixth grade.

Also during the month:

■ The Tooth Fairy, aided by a dental professional, will visit the Fleet and Family Support Center's New Parent Support Group on Feb. 16 and 17.

■ A dentist and dental assistant will visit Shirley Lanham Elementary School Feb. 21-25 to provide dental exams to students. They'll bring an instructional video and goody bags for students. The group also will visit Sure Start programs on Feb. 25.

■ Children 5 to 12 years old can enter a poster contest on Feb. 24. Children will decorate tooth-shaped posters, which will be displayed in the dental clinic. First- and second-place winners for each age group (5-8 years and 9-12 years) will be announced at the fun run and receive prizes.

USNH Wardroom charity auction

The U.S. Naval Hospital Wardroom at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, will host a charity auction from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday in the C-2 building auditorium.

The nonprofit organization will auction off about 300 items, including step tansu furniture, china items and rugs. Call DSN 241-3672 for more information.

From staff reports

Gunmen kill Iraqi journalist, son

2 GIs killed in separate incidents

BY MARIAM FAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Amid spiraling postelection violence, gunmen killed an Iraqi journalist working for a U.S.-funded TV station and his 3-year-old son as they left their home Wednesday in the southern city of Basra, an official said. Two U.S. soldiers were reported slain in separate attacks.

In Basra, Abdul Hussein Khazal al-Basri, the correspondent of Al-Hurra TV station, and his son both were killed in the city's Maqal area, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, said Nazim al Moussawi, a spokesman for the local government administration.

Launched in February 2004, Al-Hurra, or "The Free," was tailored for Arab audiences to compete with other regional stations such as Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya. President Bush said it was created to "cut through the hateful propaganda that fills the airwaves in the Muslim world," but some clerics have denounced the TV station for broadcasting its own brand of propaganda.

Al-Basri also was a member of the political office of the Islamic Dawa Party, an influential Shiite movement, and the editor of a newspaper in Basra, Al-His second-largest city. He also headed the press office at Basra City Council, al-Moussawi said.

Also Wednesday, Iraqi officials delayed the announcement of final results from landmark national elections because they said the election commission must recount votes from about 300 ballot boxes.

An undetermined number of other ballots were declared in-



Mourners ride with the coffin of Abdul Hussein al-Basri, a correspondent for the U.S.-funded Al-Hurra television station, and his son, in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Wednesday, after the two were killed by gunmen in the Maqal area of the city.

valid because of alleged tampering, officials said. The ballots were inside 40 boxes and another 250 bags that were delivered to the central counting facility in Baghdad, he said.

Final results from the Jan. 30 balloting were to be announced Thursday. But spokesman Farid Ayar said the deadline would slip due to the need for a recount.

"We don't know when this will finish," he said. "This will lead to a little postponement in announcing the results."

Ayar would not say where the 300 ballot boxes came from.

Commission official Adel al-Lami said the ballots in the 40 boxes and 250 bags would not be counted because they appeared to have been stuffed inside them or, in some cases, improperly folded.

Some of the boxes were not those approved by the commis-

sion, and others were improperly sealed, he said.

Commission officials have previously said some ballot boxes were stolen by armed groups and returned to polling stations. Al-Lami said bribes were offered to staffers if they would accept the boxes, which he said came from different parts of Iraq.

No new partial results have been released since Monday for the voting for the 275-member National Assembly, 18 provincial councils and a regional parliament for the Kurdish self-governing region in the north.

Partial results released Monday showed a coalition of Kurdish parties in second place — raising the possibility that Shiites and Kurds might share power and even open the way for a Kurdish president. Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani already has announced his candidacy for president.

The ticket of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, is in third place among the 11 candidate lists. A Shiite-dominated ticket endorsed by Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, led with about half the votes, followed by the coalition of Kurdish parties.

If that reflects the final pulse, it appears unlikely that Allawi, who favors strong ties to the United States and a tough stance against the insurgents, could emerge as a compromise choice for prime minister when the new assembly convenes by early March.

A military statement said one U.S. soldier died Tuesday of a gunshot wound at a logistical support area in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. The second soldier was shot and killed Sunday while on patrol in Mosul, the U.S. command said.

Pain lingers after rebels kill an Iraqi informant

The Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — Shihab Khaled Anwar cannot bear to think of his father, beheaded in Iraq for allegedly being an informant for Americans.

"If I think of him, I picture his head and I won't be able to sleep," the 10-year-old boy said.

The severed head was dumped on the pavement near his home in the northern city of Mosul a day after his father, Khaled Ibrahim, 29, was abducted by gunmen on his way to buy bread.

Shihab, too young to grasp the motives behind such brutality, refers to his father's killers as "burglars." The adults in the family have a different theory: He was tipping off the Americans about "terrorists."

Now the family feels abandoned by America, for whom Ibrahim sacrificed his life.

The U.S. military in Iraq never comments on its network of informants, past or present. But the beheading of Ibrahim indicates his death was the work of Iraqi insurgents, who have made decapitation the gruesome signature of their campaign against foreigners and Iraqi collaborators. On filming the act and distributing it on Web sites.

According to his wife, Ibrahim started off as a friend to Americans. They would visit the couple on the home, and Ibrahim would offer them food and drink. At some point the Americans, whom Mrs. Ibrahim said they befriended, asked him to work for them.

Ibrahim was carefully qualified to help the Americans. He knew Mosul well and he was a Kurd. Kurds were persecuted under Saddam Hussein and supported the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled his regime.

From that point on, Ibrahim had regular contacts with Americans, said his wife, an Arab.

"Every week or two he went to see the Americans," she said.

"He identified people who put explosives, the terrorists. He liked the Americans. He was against the situation."

She said the night before his death Ibrahim told her he sensed he was being watched. It was no surprise — he had received many threats from Islamic extremists for collaborating with the Americans.

Ibrahim's wife was pregnant at the time of his death. On Dec. 28, she gave birth to a fifth son.

Mrs. Ibrahim and her sons now live with Ibrahim's family in Irbil, in the Kurdish self-ruled region of northern Iraq.

"The Americans should help us. He died because of them," said Khaled's widow. "I want my children to have normal lives when they grow up."



Yokota Baptist Church

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www.yokotabaptistchurch.org

GI charged in murder

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — An Indiana National Guardsman who received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Iraq has been charged in the death of an Iraqi citizen, the Army said.

The Iraqi died at the same time Cpl. Dustin Berg, 21, was wounded, the military said. Berg also faced charges of false swearing and the wearing of an unauthorized award.

The Iraqi died in November 2003 near Nippur, south of Baghdad, said Gini Sinclair, a Fort Knox public affairs officer, on Tuesday.

Brit cleared of 1 charge

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A judge hearing the case of three British soldiers accused of abusing detained Iraqi ordered jurors on Wednesday to acquit one of the

suspects on a charge of pretending to lack a prisoner.

Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley still faces two charges of abuse.

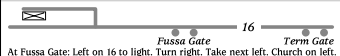
Show to air 'torture'

LONDON — A British television station plans to show a documentary that re-creates some of the torture techniques allegedly used at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp by trying them out on volunteers.

"The Guantanamo Guidebook" producers claim to have re-created some of the milder forms of torture used at the U.S. Navy base in Cuba.

The methods used on the seven volunteers in the documentary included religious and sexual humiliation, forced nudity, sleep deprivation and extreme temperatures, said Yaf Luthra, a spokesman for Channel 4 in London.

From The Associated Press



IN THE WORLD

Pope resignation comments spark emotional debate

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — A remark by the Vatican's No. 2 about the possibility of a papal resignation has touched a raw nerve, setting off an emotional debate among some of Pope John Paul II's closest advisers.

With the pope in the hospital after severe breathing difficulties following the flu, the issue has become the talk of the Vatican despite efforts by its inner circle to dampen speculation.

No pope has resigned for centuries, and the archbishop of Paris said Wednesday that for the frail 84-year-old pontiff, showing "this weakness can also be a sign of strength."

Emphasizing that the rules of the church allow the pontiff to step down, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger said: "He can resign, and it's a question of his conscience."

The pope must do what he thinks to be the will of God to accomplish his mission," Lustiger told a French radio station.

John Paul repeatedly has said he intends to stay on — even asserting that he continues to serve the church from his hospital room.

Talk that John Paul might eventually step down has been in the

air for almost a decade, as the pope has visibly weakened from Parkinson's disease and hip and knee ailments. His speech has been slurred for some years and because of difficulties to even stand, he now uses a wheeled throne pushed by aides.

John Paul, however, has consistently brushed aside any speculation, often declaring he would carry out his mission until the end.

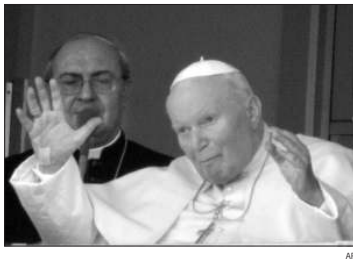
So Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Holy See's No. 2 official, surprised observers when he responded to a reporter this week asking whether the ailing pope would ever consider stepping down.

"Let's leave that hypothesis up to the pope's conscience," Sodano responded Monday. "We must have great faith in the pope. He knows what to do."

Still, any talk of resignation has angered some.

It is bad taste to talk about it, and it's even worse because the starting point of this debate is the pope's flu," said Cardinal Giovanni D'Ercole, head of the Congregation of Bishops.

Another key Vatican cardinal, Dario Castrillon Hoyos of the Congregation for the Clergy, said a resignation "is not the order of the day because he has the help of the Church firmly in his hands."



Pope John Paul II waves to faithful from a window of Rome's Agostino Gemelli hospital as he appears for the Sunday Angelus prayer.

Pope marks start of Lent

VATICAN CITY — His forehead smeared with the traditional mark of mortality, Pope John Paul II celebrated Ash Wednesday in his hospital room, missing public prayers opening the Lenten season of fasting and reflection for the first time in 26 years.

The frail 84-year-old pope, surrounded by his personal physician and other doctors treating him for the flu and breathing trouble, held Mass in his tightly guarded suite at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic.

III child visits pontiff in hospital

ROME — Pope John Paul II had an unexpected guest Wednesday — a small boy being treated for cancer in a ward next to the pontiff's Rome hospital suite.

The pope's personal secretary, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, had earlier paid a visit to the children being treated at the Gemelli Polyclinic's oncology ward, giving them a rosary. As Dziwisz was making his rounds, the unidentified Italian child approached him.

"Since yesterday I've been knocking on that door," the child told Dziwisz, pointing at the pope's suite. "But nobody answers."

"Perhaps you would like to go to the pope," asked Dziwisz, who then took the boy inside to John Paul's surprise.

"Pope, make me well," the boy told the pontiff, according to hospital spokesman Nicola Cerbino.

The pope smiled at the boy and gave him a special blessing, telling him to share it with his fellow patients.

From The Associated Press

Yemen to try suspected al-Qaida militants

BY AHMED AL-HAJJ
The Associated Press

SANA'A, Yemen — At least 10 suspected militants with links to the al-Qaida terror network will stand trial next week for planning attacks on southern Yemeni officials and Western embassies, a security official said Wednesday.

The suspects were arrested in December and January before they were able to carry out the attacks, the official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

The official said their trial will start on Mon-

day. They have confessed to planning to attack U.S. and other Western diplomats in Yemen, he added.

Britain closed its embassy in Sana'a, the Yemen capital, for one day on Jan. 5. A statement posted on the British Foreign Office's Web site said there had been "specific information that terrorists are in the final stages of planning attacks against British targets and other Western interests in Yemen."

The Yemeni official said another group of up to six suspected terrorists are still under investigation for planning similar attacks in the

southern port city of Aden. These suspects were arrested about the same time as those about to go on trial.

Yemen, the ancestral home of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, has long been a haven for Islamic extremists. In recent years it has been the scene of numerous terrorist attacks, including the bombing of the destroyer USS Cole bombing that killed 17 American sailors in 2000.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, Yemen's government joined the American-led war on terror and cracked down on militants.

Before the violence erupted four years ago, tens of thousands of Palestinians worked in Israel.

Additionally, 500 merchants would be allowed to enter Israel for business, and relatives will be allowed to visit Gaza residents incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Four hundred Palestinian employees of international organizations will be allowed to move freely between Gaza and the West Bank.

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Additionally, 500 merchants would be allowed to enter Israel for business, and relatives will be allowed to visit Gaza residents incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Four hundred Palestinian employees of international organizations will be allowed to move freely between Gaza and the West Bank.

Time for progress with Iran, Rice says

The Associated Press

RUSSELS, Belgium — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Wednesday that Iran cannot delay indefinitely accountability for a suspected nuclear weapons program, but said the United States has set "no deadline, no timeline" for Tehran to act.

Rice, making her first visit to Europe as Washington's top envoy, said the United States remains in "closer consultations" with its European allies on the issue.

But she warned Tehran that the United States would not accept "dragging the government there is officials weigh various diplomatic overtures by European nations to resolve the nuclear question."

Rice said Iran must live up to its obligations.

"I'm quite clear, and I believe everyone is telling the Iranians that they are going to have to live up to their international obligations," she said at a news conference with NATO officials. "It is obvious that if Iran cannot be brought to live up to its international obligations, in fact, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is going to insist that Iran would have to be referred to the U.N. Security Council."

"I think the message is — the Iranians need to get their message," she said, adding that Tehran should know that "there are other steps" the international community can take.

In the Fox interview, Rice said: "We have believed all along that Iran ought to be referred to the Security Council and then a variety of steps are available to the international community."

Rice told reporters Iran already is on notice that it must not use a civilian nuclear power program to hide a weapons program.

Iran has denied making nuclear weapons, and says its nuclear activities are geared solely toward generating electricity.

Britain, France and Germany are in talks with the Iranian regime, but the United States has kept its distance from that effort and the Europeans have been reluctant to take the matter to the United Nations before making further efforts at a deal.

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he believes diplomacy can resolve tensions with Iran. He said Britain, France and Germany were still "pursuing the policy of engagement" with Iran, with U.S. support.

"It is important also to make clear to Iran that they cannot breach the rules of the atomic energy authority and they cannot develop nuclear weapons capability," Blair told British lawmakers Wednesday. "That is the very clear wish of the entire international community."

"I happen to believe, however, that this can be pursued by diplomatic means of engagement," he added.

Israel to lift some West Bank travel restrictions

BY MOHAMMED DARAGH-
MEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel will lift travel restrictions on Palestinians in parts of the West Bank and abandon several major checkpoints as part of its withdrawal from five towns in coming weeks, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday.

Free travel would be the most significant improvement yet in the lives of ordinary Palestinians,

sending a strong message that a cease-fire with Israel is beginning to pay off. Abbas made the announcement a day after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a Mideast summit in Egypt.

A senior Israeli military official admitted that several roadblocks would be removed as part of the handover of security responsibility for the five towns to Palestinians. The handover of Jericho, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Bethlehem and Ramallah will occur during the next three weeks, ac-

cording to a timetable agreed to by Abbas and Sharon on Tuesday.

A second meeting between the two, set for Sharon's Sycamore Ranch in southern Israel, could take place "in the coming days or a week," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Sharon.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia met with the West Bank security commanders and instructed them to be prepared to take responsibility for the five areas, participants said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister

Strong quake in Indonesia's Aceh province sets off panic

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — A strong earthquake struck Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province Wednesday, shaking buildings as terrified residents fled for higher ground in cars and on foot while police shouted: "Tsunami! Tsunami!"

Entire families jumped aboard nearby scooters and passing vehicles and sped off, snarling traffic on the main two-lane thoroughfare. Some headed to mosques, whose sturdy foundations and upper floors offered protection from the killer waves in the Dec. 26 disaster. Women screamed and sobbed.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The 6.2-magnitude tremor

struck about 8:30 p.m. and was centered beneath the Indian Ocean floor, about 65 miles southwest of the provincial capital of Banda Aceh, the Banda Aceh Geophysics Center said.

The U.S. Geological Survey registered slightly different readings, estimating the quake's magnitude at 5.7 and its epicenter about 50 miles southwest of Banda Aceh. A magnitude-6 quake can cause widespread damage if it is centered in a densely populated area.

Also on Wednesday in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the infant dubbed "Baby 81" after being found in the debris of Asia's tsunami and the couple desperately trying to claim him underwent DNA tests that could resolve a case that has come to symbolize families torn

apart by the disaster.

Nine women initially claimed the 3-month-old boy after he was found caked in mud amid corpses, left



"Baby 81"

Still, a judge ordered the baby kept in a hospital until his parentage could be proven genetically, and it could be several days before Wednesday's test results reach the court.



Visitors toss joss sticks into flames as prayers on the Chinese Lunar New Year day, Wednesday, at Hsintien Temple in Taipei, Taiwan. Chinese culture brings millions of ethnic Chinese to pray for good luck and prosperity in the new year. This new year is the Year of the Rooster.

Chinese celebrate Year of the Rooster

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A holiday calm fell over bustling cities as Chinese communities across Asia welcomed the Year of the Rooster with prayers Wednesday for tsunami victims and a safer 2005.

Businesses and government offices from Beijing to Singapore closed as hundreds of millions of ethnic Chinese visited temples and held family reunions to mark the passing of the Year of the Monkey.

In Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province, worshippers at the Vihara Dharma Bhakti temple in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh burned incense as they bowed in prayer for the tens of thousands killed there by the Dec. 26 disaster.

"We feel a great emptiness inside, but we're here to give thanks for our protection and to

pray for the forgiveness of sins and peacefulness of those who died," said Lai Nier Sin, a hairdresser whose older brother's family was washed away.

In Beijing, a city of 14 million people, streets were nearly deserted as tens of thousands of people thronged temples in a freezing wind to pray for good fortune amid clouds of perfumed incense smoke.

Security was heavy in an effort to prevent a repeat of a disaster last February in which 37 people were killed in a stampede at a festival in the Chinese capital marking the end of the holiday.

In Taiwan, President Chen Shui-bian handed out 20,000 red envelopes containing 10 New Taiwan dollars (31 U.S. cents) to residents in the southern farm village of Kuantien, his hometown. The red envelopes signify good fortune for the year ahead.

'Potter' orders strong

LONDON — More than 100,000 fans have pre-ordered the new Harry Potter book that goes on sale in five months' time, the British division of online book retailer Amazon said Monday.

The sixth title in the hugely successful series by J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince," went to the top of amazon.co.uk's sales chart on the first day of its announcement on Dec. 22.

The children's version of the book, rumored to have a different cover design from the adult copy, has remained in the No. 1 spot ever since. The adult equivalent is at No. 5.

Amazon.co.uk says it is planning to send out all pre-ordered copies of the book to arrive on July 16, the day of public release.

From wire reports

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Bill would expand benefits for reservists

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — A bi-partisan group of legislators unveiled a new bill Wednesday that would improve retirement and health-care benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserves.

Rep. Tom Latham from Iowa and Sen. Lindsey Graham from South Carolina, both Republicans, spearheaded the bill, called the Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act of 2005.

The bill has two major components: a provision to allow Guardsmen and reservists to buy coverage using Tricare, the military's health-care system, whether or not they are mobilized; and a decrease in the military retirement age that is based on the number of years a reservist has served.

Right now, only mobilized reservists are allowed to sign up themselves and their families for Tricare, thanks to a provision passed by Congress last year.

Like many working Americans, reservists frequently cannot afford medical insurance, Latham said during a press conference announcing the bill Tuesday.

The senator cited a U.S. government study released in April 2003 that found that 20 percent of Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers are uninsured.

The uninsured rate is much higher in some parts of the country, according to the study, which was conducted by Congress' watchdog arm, the General Accounting Office: As many as 40 percent of Guardsmen and reservists who live in the Midwest are uninsured.

Yet to be determined is the cost of monthly premiums to reservists who elect Tricare, said Mark Olanoff, executive director of the Retired Enlisted Association in Alexandria, Va., one of several reserve advocacy organizations supporting the bill.

The bill also proposes making retirement benefits available earlier, using a formula that would shave one year off the current 60-year retirement benchmark for every two years of service over 20 years.

Right now, reservists can't start collecting retirement pay until they turn 60, regardless of how long they have served in the military.

But if the bill passes, a reservist with 20 years of service could draw retirement pay at age 60, while a reservist with 34 years of service could retire as early as age 53.

The longer and more frequent deployments that are resulting from the continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan mean that many reservists are contributing less money to their tax-deferred private retirement plans, Latham said. And at the same time they are accruing fewer eligible months or years to qualify for their civilian pension plans.

Lowering the retirement age, Latham said, would give highly experienced reservists an incentive to continue serving.

The bill's provisions would cost taxpayers an estimated \$7 billion over five years, Latham said.

The bill's other co-sponsors include Sens. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y.; Mike DeWine, R-Ohio; George Allen, R-Va.; Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.; and Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga.; and Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C.

Mayor of Baltimore equates Bush budget with Sept. 11 attacks

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Mayor Martin O'Malley likened the cuts in President Bush's budget proposal for urban areas to the Sept. 11 attacks, drawing fire from his fellow Democrats as well as Republicans.

Also, at a news conference Wednesday, O'Malley denounced rumors of infidelity spread on the Internet by a longtime aide to Gov. Robert Ehrlich, saying he was the target of an "orchestrated



O'Malley

campaign," as his wife described the effect that the stories were having on their young children.

The mayor, who is weighing a bid for governor in 2006 and is considered a rising star within the

Democratic Party, was among a group of mayors and other local officials who held a news conference Tuesday in Washington to criticize the president's proposal to cut spending for community development programs by \$2 billion.

"Back on Sept. 11, terrorists attacked our metropolitan cores, two of America's great cities. They did that because they knew that was where they could do the most damage and weaken us the

most," O'Malley said. "Years later, we are given a budget proposal by our commander in chief, the president of the United States. And with a budget ax, he is attacking America's cities. He is attacking our metropolitan core."

Montgomery County, Md., Executive Douglas M. Duncan said O'Malley "went way too far."

"The president of the United States is fighting terrorism. It hurts our cause when people say things like that," said Duncan,

who like O'Malley is expected to seek the Democratic nomination in the 2006 race against Ehrlich. O'Malley told The Washington Post he didn't intend to equate the proposed budget cuts to a terrorist attack.

"The point I am trying to make is, for America to be strong, we have to strengthen our cities. Because we're in the middle of a war, we need to be strengthening and protecting our cities, not weakening our cities," he said.



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Suspect surrenders in scalping of teen

BY REBECCA BOONE
The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A woman accused of scalping a 16-year-old girl surrendered to authorities Wednesday.

Marianne Dahle turned herself in to deputies at the Ada County Jail. She was arrested on suspicion of aggravated battery for allegedly tying up the teenage acquaintance and cutting away a 6-inch by 8-inch section of her scalp.

The victim — who has only released her first name, Sheila, to news outlets — said she underwent skin grafts and anticipated another surgery to repair the damage.

Police said both were members of a punk clique. Dahle was visiting Kirkham Hot Springs in central Idaho with the girl, whose hair was cut in a Mohawk, and a friend when the attack occurred Jan. 18.

The teen spent two weeks in the hospital and is now recovering at

home. Authorities did not release the girl's name, though she identified herself as Sheila to Boise TV station KTVB.

"When I say this gal was scalped, she was truly scalped," said Bill Braddock, chief deputy sheriff of Boise County. "The top of her head, her hair, was completely cut off. The motive, as far as we've been told by witnesses, was retaliation for acting in a way that the adult perceived as being offensive to women as a gender."

Braddock said the victim, Dahle and another teenage girl who witnessed the attack were long-term acquaintances who belonged to the same clique. The victim's Mohawk haircut may have played a role in the assault, he said.

"In their punk group, wearing a Mohawk is a sign of being a punker, and according to their creed if you disrespect women you are not allowed to wear a Mohawk," he said. "But I don't think the victim had any idea in the world she was going to be scalped."

Boston commuter train hits, kills 2

BOSTON — A commuter train struck and killed two Boston University students in the city's Allston section early Wednesday morning.

The two were dead at the scene after they were hit by an inbound train from Worcester around 1 a.m., said Lydia Rivera, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

MBTA police investigators were unsure why the two were on the tracks, Rivera said.

Colo. professor holds ground amid controversy

BOULDER, Colo. — An embattled university professor who likened some of the Sept. 11 victims to the Nazi organizer of the Holocaust got a standing ovation when he told a campus audience of more than 1,000 people that "I'm not backing up an inch."

Ward Churchill went ahead with the speech after the University of Colorado backed off an attempt to cancel the address, citing security reasons. Churchill had filed a lawsuit against the cancellation.

Churchill's comments, which appeared in an essay he wrote soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, prompted a firestorm of criticism when they became widely known last month, prompting him to resign as chairman of Colorado University's ethnic studies department.

From The Associated Press

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Actors Martin Sheen, second from left, foreground, and Jane Withers cast Tuesday in Los Angeles as they examine a replica of the car the late James Dean was driving when he died. Celebrities turned out to honor the legendary actor, on what would have been his 74th birthday.

Star-studded event honors James Dean

Legendary screen actor remembered on birthday

BY DAISY NGUYEN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Was the "Rebel Without a Cause" driven to early death because of his rebellious nature? It depends on whom you ask.

Friends and former co-stars of James Dean disagree on whether he had a death wish, but all agree the screen idol influenced them and the moviegoing public.

Dean, who died 50 years ago in a car accident, would have been 74 on Tuesday, and a celebration of sorts was held to kick off a year-long celebration leading to his 75th birthday.

"We had talked about growing older," said actor Martin Landau. "He used to worry that he looked like a kid when he became an actor."

But photographer Phil Stern, who captured a famous shot of Dean with a turtle-neck covering half his face, thinks Dean had no intention of growing old.

"Dean was very prescient because he structured his career in such a way that he passed away — which I believe was inevitable — in a way that precluded the possibility of people seeing him as a potbellied, bald man," Stern said.

Martin Sheen, who stars in NBC's "The West Wing," was only a boy when he saw Dean in "East of Eden." Dean's performance inspired Sheen to become an actor.

"All of his movies had a profound effect on my life, in my work and all of my generation," Sheen said. "He transcended cinema acting. It was no longer acting, it was human behavior."

Jane Withers said working with the sometimes aloof Dean in "Giant" was the highlight of her career, but she had to get past his attitude early on.

"He acted like a little kid and when someone acts like a kid, I treat them like one," Withers said. "I didn't put up with any guff, and because of it, we had a very warm relationship."

Earl Holliman, who was also in "Giant," sees Dean's aloofness as a product of his desire to remain focused on work.



James Dean

"Jimmy was a guy who didn't care what people think of him," Holliman said. "He said that wasn't important. What was important was what was on the screen."

Despite his brief Hollywood career, Dean's image as rebel antihero still resonates with marketers.

Warner Bros. plans to release "Giant," "Rebel" and "East of Eden" on DVD this year. And Dean's image will adorn two NASCAR racing cars this summer.

Dean, an avid racer, died Sept. 30, 1955, when another car turned into the path of his Porsche Spyder on a California highway.

Officers estimated he was driving between 70 mph and 75 mph.

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New allegations are leveled against entertainer Cosby

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — A California lawyer says she has told Montgomery County, Pa., investigators who are probing sex allegations against Bill Cosby that the entertainer drugged her and tried to force himself on her about 30 years ago.

Tamara Green, a longtime criminal and civil lawyer and former fashion model, said she decided to tell her story after Cosby's lawyer and the Montgomery County district attorney publicly cast doubt on a former Temple University women's basketball executive's allegations that Cosby drugged and groped her at his Elkins Park, Pa., mansion last year.

"I realize that him doing it to me 30 years ago doesn't prove he did it to this girl today, but when I heard the circumstances, I felt compelled to call up and say, 'He did exactly the same thing to me,'" said Green, 57.

"Do I want everybody to know that he had his dirty paws all over me? No," she said.

"But I don't think it's right that they're going to disregard this woman and her allegations. I feel like they should look into it more seriously..."

What she said convinced her to go public was not any desire for justice for herself or for money or even for publicity. She said she believes it was her "civic duty and moral obligation" to come forward after Cosby's lawyer denounced the Temple woman's claims as "bizarre and preposterous" and Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr. characterized the case against Cosby as weak.

Cosby's lawyer, Walter Phillips Jr., denied Green's allegations. He would not answer questions about her story. "I've spoken with my client," Phillips said. "Mr. Cosby does not recognize the names

Tamara Green or Tamara Lucier [her maiden name]. ... [T]he incident you described did not happen in any way, shape or form."

Cosby also has denied the former Temple executive's allegations.

She claims Cosby gave her some pills, then groped her while she was immobilized at his mansion in January 2004.

Castor has said his office would decide this week whether to charge Cosby "or anyone else" in the probe of the ex-Temple employee's complaint.

Green said she gave a statement by phone to a Montgomery County detective on Jan. 28 and told him she would testify if necessary. She also said she spoke Monday to Risa Vetter Ferman, Castor's first assistant. Green also spoke to lawyers who represent the former Temple employee.

Dolores Troiani, the lawyer representing the former Temple employee, said she found Green "credible."

If Cosby is charged with sexually assaulting the former Temple worker, the testimony of someone making claims like Green's might be useful to prosecutors if a judge allows it into evidence, said Wendy Demchik-Alloy, a retired Montgomery County sex crimes prosecutor.

"It helps to fortify the prosecution because instead of just having one victim, in effect on an island, all by herself, with no other evidence, you have two," Demchik-Alloy said.



Cosby

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This promotional photo provided by Paramount Network Television shows actress Catherine Bell as Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie in CBS's military law drama "JAG." The show is trying to tackle topics that have come up during the Iraq war.

'Definitely intense'

'JAG' finds its war stories can hit close to home

BY BRIDGET BYRNE
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — The sound of gunfire ricochets inside a minaret as a private in the U.S. Marine Corps shoots a wounded, and apparently unarmed, Iraqi.

Members of the camera crew remove their earplugs and discuss whether the scene went OK or needs a retake. It doesn't.

"Death at the Mosque," shooting in this suburb north of Los Angeles, will air as an episode of "JAG," the military law series.

This season, war has been featured prominently in several episodes reflecting real events in Iraq.

"How we approach the stories I think probably changes from month to month, not unlike the mood of the country — first some enthusiasm, then some doubt, some reservations," producer Peter Dunne says. "Our stories concern themselves more with the humane issues, the peace issues rather than the war issues ... because it's going to be the humanity that solves this war, not the weapons."

Local terrain in the hills visible from Dunne's Santa Clarita office provides convincing settings for Iraq as well as Afghanistan.

The series has always had co-operation from all branches of the armed services and often films on military bases, including the San Diego Naval Air Station and the Marines' Camp Pendleton nearby.

"You see all the young families there ... and how much we are like them, but not are suffering the same. We all have spouses, parents, children, whom we expect to find in the house at night when we get home, but they don't have that," says Dunne.

Created by Don Bellisario, the series follows the personal and professional trials of the Judge Advocate General Corps, the lawyers who investigate, prosecute and defend cases involving Navy and Marine personnel.

The stars of the legal team are Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie, played by Catherine Bell, and Cmdr. Harmon

"Harm" Rabb, played by David James Elliott, who's leaving the series at the end of this season.

Chris Beeman, recently of daytime's "As the World Turns," has just been signed up as Lt. Gregory Vukovic, a charming but ethically defiant new member of the "JAG" team, who happens to be assigned to the minaret shooting. Bell, whose toddler daughter is with her as she waits in her trailer for her next scene, mentions working at Pendleton on the day last month when 30 Marines and a Navy sailor were killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq.

"Meeting guys who have lost their friends — or a young woman with a beautiful little 6-month-old baby whose father left for the war when the baby was 3 weeks old — you meet these people and, man, this is definitely intense," Bell says.

"I think after 9/11, things felt different. It felt like we had more of a responsibility in how we represented what was happening, and also that people were paying closer attention to that, learning more about the military through our show, hopefully," she says.

"I don't think we can afford to be grim all the time, but I think we have to be honest and I don't think there is anything less entertaining about an honest drama," says Dunne.

The drama was canceled by NBC in 1996 after one season, then was picked up in January 1997 by CBS. It won't be known until May whether "JAG" will earn an 11th season, but Dunne feels the odds are with them: "I don't think there will ever be a shortage of good drama set in the military — it's one of the four main franchises — along with police work, law and medicine — that have held up, because they all provide the element of life or death."

And explaining the focus on reality-based war stories, Dunne says: "This war, like every war that we have fought, changes law ... We try to examine that and put our JAG officer-heroes in the center of this firestorm of what now works and what doesn't work in the legal system ... Our characters, though they are not fighting the war, are fighting to interpret its effect on this country."

Peter Dunne
producer

McConaughey to start Daytona 500

Well, all right, all right, all right. Matthew McConaughey has been selected as the Grand Marshal for the 47th annual Daytona 500.

The 35-year-old actor will give the command, "Drivers, start your engines," at the Feb. 20 race in Florida, NASCAR announced Monday.

"I'm honored and excited to be the Grand Marshal of this year's race," McConaughey said in a statement. "There is nothing more American than NASCAR and the Daytona 500."

Ashton Kutcher will be the honorary starter of this year's race.



McConaughey

Grammy producer honored with star

Producer Pierre Cossette, who initiated the live Grammy Awards television broadcast in 1971, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Cossette, who will mark his 35th anniversary as Grammy producer with Sunday's ceremony, received the 2,278th star on the walk, in front of the Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard.

Comedians Bob Newhart and Don Rickles took part in the ceremony Monday conducted by Johnny Grant, chairman of the Walk of Fame Committee and Hollywood's honorary mayor.

Director resigns post at film academy

Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodovar has resigned his post at Spain's Film Academy because of a disagreement over the voting system used to select winners of the Goya Awards, his production company said.

Almodovar, who was a member of the academy for 17 years, quit in December because the number of voters for the Goya Awards, his production company said. Almodovar, who was a member of the academy for 17 years, quit in December because the number of voters for the Goya Awards, his production company said. Almodovar, who was a member of the academy for 17 years, quit in December because the number of voters for the Goya Awards, his production company said.



Almodovar

'Sex' star Davis becomes 'soccer mom'

Kristin Davis is moving from the "City" to the suburbs for her next TV project.

Davis, an Emmy nominee last year for the final season of HBO's "Sex and the City," has taken a lead role in ABC's pilot "Soccer Moms." Her signing removes the casting contingency from the project, the showbiz trade papers report.

"Soccer Moms" is a light drama that revolves around two suburban women who moonlight as private investigators. Don Todd ("Life as We Know It") and Marla Ginsburg ("Highlander") are writing the pilot and executive producing with Jeff Kline ("That Was Then").

Cheadle heads to Sudan for 'Nightline'

Don Cheadle, the Oscar-nominated star of "Hotel Rwanda," took on the role of a reporter for a "Nightline" segment on the ethnic conflict in the Sudan.

Cheadle reported from the African nation on Wednesday's edition of the late-night ABC news program as a "special correspondent," the network says. The actor and "Nightline" producer Rick Wilkinson accompanied several members of Congress on a recent fact-finding mission to examine what many observers are calling genocide in the country's Darfur region.

Rebel groups in the region accuse the Sudanese government of funding Arab militias called Janjaweed to wipe out non-Arab enclaves, a charge the government denies.

'Dreams,' 'Contender' swap spots on NBC

NBC has moved its boxing reality series "The Contender" yet again, setting the show on Monday and moving "American Dreams" out of its three-year home and onto Wednesday nights for the remainder of its season.

The moves are among several changes the network is making to its midweek schedule, including a special preview and new premiere date for the comedy "The Office" and an earlier start for the fourth "Law & Order" series.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Replacing converter
a civilized decision

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a '95 Geo Metro with a 1.0-liter engine and a five-speed transmission. I recently took my car four-wheeling and broke a few things. OK, OK, I broke a lot of things — the catalytic converter being one of them. I have no idea where it is now; it's just gone. Anyhow, when the converter was there, I got 52 mpg, but now I'm getting just over 60 mpg! I want to know why I'm getting better mileage. Would it be well if I just never replaced the converter? (I have a straight pipe in there now, all the way to the muffler.) The muffler is gone, too, so the car sounds like a suffering cow, but the mileage is so good that I'm willing to live with that. If I'm caught doing this, do I get sent to Guantanamo Bay?

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Thanks, — Steve
Tom: Steve, Don Rumsfeld is on his way to your house as we speak. But on the plus side, we hear Guantanamo Bay is quite balmy this time of year.

RAY: The reason you get better mileage is because you've eliminated most of the "back pressure" from your exhaust system. In addition to protecting us from pollution (converter) and noise pollution (muffler), those two devices also restrict your exhaust to a certain degree. And that decreases your mileage. It's the price we pay for what we call civilization, Steve. You should consider joining it sometime.

TOM: But the back pressure also protects your valves. Without sufficient back pressure, the hot exhaust will blow past your engine's valves so quickly that it'll burn them up, and eventually you'll need to replace them. Let's do the math.

RAY: You're getting an extra 8 miles per gallon. Which, over the course of 12,000 miles, saves you about 30 gallons of gas. So, without the converter and muffler, you save \$60 a year.

TOM: A valve job on that car would probably run you about \$60. But don't forget that while you're at Guantanamo Bay, you won't have to pay rent on your apartment. Factor that in, too, and then do what you think is best, Steve.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this column, or e-mail us at clickandclack@earthlink.net. We'll answer the best ones on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

More refunds on the way!

Class-action suit against First Command widens eligibility pool

BY LOE SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of California attorneys has filed a class-action lawsuit against First Command Financial Planning that could result in payouts to military investors not included in last year's federal settlement.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court of Southern California, asks for compensation for members of First Command's systematic investment plan, saying the company used "false and misleading marketing" in its dealings with investors.

First Command officials dismissed those accusations. "First Command Financial Planning is proud of its years of service to hundreds of thousands of military families," said Paul Cozby, a company spokesman. "We believe the complaint filed in San Diego contains numerous factual inaccuracies and erroneous conclusions, and we intend to vigorously defend the matter."

In December, federal regulators announced First Command would refund about \$4 million to customers who bought and sold the systematic investment plans between 1999 and 2004.

That settlement came after an investigation found the company's salespeople had misled military personnel about costs and returns associated with the plan. Company officials did not admit to or deny the charges, but they have since stopped offering those funds.

Anyone who bought a systematic investment plan before Dec. 15 and did not sell the plan before that date

could be eligible to join the legal action, according to Norman Blumenthal, one of eight attorneys already signed on to the suit.

Blumenthal said the goal is to help the customers not included in that settlement, but also "punished" by First Command's sales practices.

"You shouldn't put military personnel in a position where they're taking that much money away in fees," he said. "We think it's a bad plan."

The systematic investment plans took as much as 50 percent of investors' first-year savings in broker fees, and, the lawsuit states, higher-than-needed fees after that. Salespeople for the firm also are accused of lying about the likelihood of recouping that money, and misleading customers about better investment plans.

Blumenthal said First Command customers do not need to sign up to become part of the class — if a settlement or verdict award is reached, all those eligible will be able to recover money — but he is encouraging military personnel he speaks with to talk with a financial adviser about their investments.

"We're telling people there is no reason to stay in this plan," he said.

A lead plaintiff for the case is expected to be named by May 1, at which point the courtroom process will begin.

In addition to the \$4 million in refunds it was ordered to pay in the December federal settlement, First Command agreed to an \$8 million fine to be used to set up an investment education program for military personnel.

E-mail Loe Shane at: shane@stripes.com

Trampolines recalled

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Jump-King Inc. of Mesquite, Texas, has announced a voluntary recall of 1 million trampolines and almost 296,000 "Fun Ring" trampoline enclosures, which were sold separately or with Jump-King trampolines.

The recall is for 14- and 15-foot

trampolines both with and without enclosures. The Army says Air Force Exchange Service sold the trampolines from January 2003 to November 2004.

The trampoline recall is due to welds that can break during use, resulting in falls and possible injuries, according to a Consumer Product Safety Commission news release. The "Fun Ring" enclosures are included

because of sharp edges on the mounting brackets that can cause lacerations.

To learn which JumpKing trampolines and enclosures are subject to the recall, and to receive a free repair kit, call (866) 302-8669 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST Monday through Friday or visit www.jumpking.com/recall for more information.

From staff reports

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

INDEXES									
52-week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week High	Low	Name
10,868.07	9,708.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,724.63	+6.87	+0.06	+5.4	23.55	552.21	Dow Jones Ind. 100
3,821.96	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,660.87	+7.74	+2.1	+4.95	+23.55	7,277.18	NYSE Composite
352.91	298.08	Dow Jones Utilities	353.19	+1.38	+0.39	+5.45	+29.73	1,470.88	AMEX Industrials
7,273.18	6,211.33	NYSE Composite	7,207.45	+6.54	+0.09	+5.99	+29.73	2,191.69	Nasdaq Composite
1,470.88	1,350.74	AMEX Industrials	1,470.88	+1.38	+0.1	+29.73	+23.55	1,217.99	S&P 500
2,191.69	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,086.68	+4.65	+2.2	+4.08	+5	666.09	S&P Mid-Cap
1,217.99	1,060.72	S&P 500	1,202.30	+5.08	+0.75	+7.9	+43.4	1,217.99	Russell 2000
666.09	549.29	S&P Mid-Cap	662.40	+2.05	+3.1	+14	+103.2	12,823.96	DJ World Index
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FRIDAY EVENING / FEBRUARY 11, 2005

MOVIES

SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P #ESPN Pacific Report	The O.C. "The Way We Were" Show. Ryan, Marissa and Summer adjust to their changing dynamics. (CC)	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)	The Apprentice (CC)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman		
7	AFN-AT #5:46 O'Grady Winfrey (CC)	(3:51) Guiding Light (CC)	(1:17) General Hospital	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)	The Apprentice (CC)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman		
8	NEWS #8:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
9	SPECS #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
10	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
11	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
12	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
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14	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
15	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
16	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
17	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
18	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
19	AFN-AL #5:00 College Basketball North Carolina State at Wake Forest. (Taped)	The Simpsons Homie creates his own Web page.	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Princeton Thursday (CC)	Fox and Friends							
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JAPAN TV

Morning

7:30 Disney (12)

12:00 50% WRG Rally (12)

4:55 NHK Year-end Song Concert - Part 1 (10/1)

5:00 LPGA Tour: Women's World Cup of Golf Preview (4)

5:50 News (6)

7:30 NHK Year-end Song Concert - Part 1 (10/1)

9:00 Football Mundial (42)

9:30 World Music (1996): Eraser (15/14)

10:00 News (1)

12:24 LPGA Tour: Women's World Cup of Golf (4)

12:35 2005 FIS World Cup: Mogul in Naxos (6)

2:30 Korean Movie (1986): Lovers Me Me (21/19)

2:50 U.S. Movie (1991): Time-bomb (1/50/10)

3:10 U.S. Movie (1986): Cherry 2000 (1/50/12)

3:36 Classical Music (13/1)

3:35 CBS Documentary (6)

JAPAN TV-B57

Morning

6:10 World News Hour

7:10 World News Hour

8:10 World News Hour

9:10 World News Hour

10:10 50% Documentary: Privatization of Water System (7)

11:10 CNN News

Afternoon

12:10 CNN News

12:35 PSA: Top Golf Lesson (12)

1:10 Rose Parade 2005

2:10 PBS NewsHour

3:10 CNN News

3:30 World Amazing Sports

4:10 World News Hour

5:10 Figure Skating GP Exhibition 2004 Best Selection: Series

Evening

6:10 CNN News

7:00 Documentary: Battle of Stalingrad (2/2/4)

8:05 Documentary: Battle of Stalingrad (2/2/4)

10:10 World Reports

11:30 Football Mundial

12:10 2005 World Alpine Championship: Men's Downhill

1:10 2005 World Alpine Championship: Women's Slalom

3:10 Asian News

4:30 Asian News

4:30 Asian News

5:30 World News Hour

WOWOW

Morning

7:00 Railway Story: Czech

8:00 U.S. Movie (1992): Singles

9:40 U.S. Movie (1987): About a Boy

10:50 U.S. Movie (2002): Murder by Numbers (2/10)

Afternoon

2:30 U.S. Movie (1994): Speed

2:30 U.S. Movie (1994): Speed

2:30 U.S. Movie (1994): Speed

2:30 U.S. Movie (1994): Speed

4:00 U.S. Movie (1996): While You Were Sleeping (1/54)

Evening

8:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Two Weeks Notice (1/50)

10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (2/50)

12:00 TV Series: Friends the Final No. 229

12:40 Spanish Movie (2002): Hable Con Ella (1/50)

4:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Shark Attack 3: Megalodon (1/35)

JAPAN TV-B51

Morning

9:30 Sports

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra

Kobe Earthquake Memorial Concert

Evening

7:00 NHK News

8:00 U.S. Movie (1979): Kramer vs. Kramer (1/50)

12:00 Classical Music: Classic documentary: Erich Wolfgang Korngold

MTV

Morning

6:00 Wake Up!

7:00 M. Music Thursday

8:00 Top Choice

10:00 Pure Music

11:00 Top Choice

12:00 Classic '90s

1:00 Screen

1:30 Consensus: Gay

1:30 Consensus: Gay

1:30 Consensus: Gay

1:30 Consensus: Gay

1:30 Consensus: Gay

1:30 Consensus: Gay

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Retirees can serve, too

As a physically fit and well-maintained retired noncommissioned officer, I find it absolutely ridiculous that retirees are not allowed to enjoy their retirement pay to come back in and fight for our country.

I keep seeing all these stories about civilians being brought back into the military, some under duress, after anywhere from six to 20-plus years past their termination/release.

I have been told by the recruiters that retired soldiers are not wanted. We have signed our name to defend this country and we are willing to die for it again. We are required to have "hip-pocket" orders in case of war or national emergency.

Give me a contract, and I'll even buy my own desert battle dress uniforms, but don't say that because I'm retired I'm now out to pasture.

Speaking for myself, I will do all I can to defend this nation from all enemies, foreign and domestic, if called upon.

Sgt. 1st Class Rick S. McLaughlin (retired)
Gibelstadt, Germany

CIB is a badge of honor

This is in reference to the many letters regarding the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Every servicemember who serves, whether in a combat zone or not, should be commended. No one should ever be allowed to minimize someone's service because they were or were not in combat, or they were or were not in the infantry.

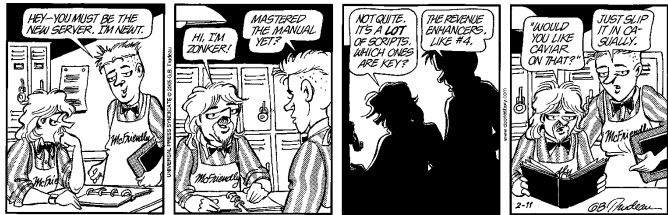
This said, not everyone who serves deserves the opportunity to earn the Combat Infantryman Badge or Expert Infantryman Badge. The badge represents more than just the successful completion of a set of tasks, or the participation in a firefight.

It represents a badge of honor to those whose entire careers are filled with hard-slip: heavy loads on long marches, squad and platoon live-fire exercises in full combat gear in 120-degree heat, waiting all night in freezing-cold rain to execute an ambush that never happens because the enemy never shows up where you want him to, and the list goes on.

Again, there are many soldiers out there who are doing an outstanding job in Iraq. In no way do I mean to minimize the flexibility or commitment of each and every soldier who has quickly learned new skills in order to accomplish his mission in Iraq.

But you are either infantry, or you're not. The soldiers who earn that badge are infantry before they go to Iraq and, for most of them who choose to make the Army a career, they will remain in the infantry after their tour in Iraq is through.

Doonesbury



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So please, not only for our status as the tip of the spear in times of war, but also for the hardships that we endure our entire career, let us have our badge. It is unique to our profession, and represents so much more than tasks performed, or war survived.

Capt. Gregory Cook

Iraq

Mattis comments no surprise

Well, Lt. Gen. James Mattis certainly caused a stir recently in patriotic circles. As an experienced Marine commander who led troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, his comments about the joys and fun of killing human beings were rather vulgar given his position. His assertion that it is fun to shoot guys that "ain't got no manhood" makes one wonder if there are other military genres in high or low position of like disposition.

Of course, we do have the evidence of similar thinking and behavior from the perpetrators of the Abu Ghraib incidents of prison abuse. Maybe the lust for killing and abusing combatants and innocents alike that manifested itself with people like Lt. William Calley at My Lai in Vietnam is still much in evidence in our military.

Of course, do not mention this idea to the Texas Swift boaters who denied such a possibility in the recent presidential campaign. Perhaps Sen. John Kerry was right about American military behavior in Vietnam.

All pro-lifers who focus on the single issue of abortion might rightly examine pro-life issues in regard to American military behavior past and present. (By the way, that challenge is for George Bush and all church leaders who have re-

mained silent on the moral issues concerning the pre-emptive war in Iraq based on false assumptions.)

That would be a real values discussion for people who relish dropping smart bombs from the safety of 30,000 feet or picking off people with automatic weapons as if they were at a carnival target shoot.

Terrence Lauerman

De Pere, Wis.

Curfew easily imposed, useless

U.S. Forces Korea leaders have recently been bombarding us with public service announcements on TV about the evils of prostitution and human trafficking. First, I'd like to point out that there is a wide gulf of difference between the two. Prostitution is the direct result of a government's inability or disinterest in ensuring that decent jobs are available for all of its citizens. Prostitution is a direct result of economic necessity.

Human trafficking, on the other hand, is the direct, hands-on exploitation (either by force or coercion) of one person by another for economic gain.

I won't spend any more time on that explanation. Either you get it or you don't.

Based on all I've seen and heard, the close cooperation between USFK, the South Korean police and the appropriate embassies that would be necessary to combat human trafficking does not yet exist. For example: Even though the USFK Town Patrol is aware that Filipina bagirls are frequently locked in their apartments during the day, they can do nothing about that. That's the job of the South Korean police.

USFK Town Patrol cannot conduct sting operations to stop prostitution. That's the job of the South Korean police. Club owners who employ Filipina bagirls are usually tipped off in advance as to when South Korean immigration officials are coming to town and clean up their act accordingly for the day.

When is the last time the South Korean police arrested a bar owner for mistreating his foreign employees? Has this ever happened?

If the South Korean police and assorted embassy officials can show no more concern than this, then human trafficking and the mistreatment of foreign workers will never be stopped here.

As for using the curfew as a tool to combat this multifaceted problem, it is certainly the easiest route to take because it can be forced on a captive audience, but it is pretty much useless. At best it only serves to put a small dent in the incomes of the local bar owners, at the same time generating much resentment among those on whom it is imposed.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles Lacy (retired)

Songtong, South Korea

By GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

New Iraq gives women something to cling to

Transcending a vast and bitter ocean of cultural differences, the daughter who lost a father embraced the mother who lost a son.

Mariam Markez



As the crying women went to part, the dog tag of Marine Sgt. Byron Norwood wouldn't let them.

It caught in their clothing, as if some greater power wanted the moment to linger and permeate our nation's war-weary soul.

A Hollywood director couldn't have staged a more inspirational, and paradoxically, heartbreaking symbol of the blood two nations have spilled in freedom's name.

The hug received the longest standing ovation at President Bush's State of the Union address.

It stands as a good omen for Iraq's potential to emerge from U.S. occupation into a self-defining democracy in which women won't only vote but also choose to lead and participate in every aspect of that nation's civic life. In a country like Iraq — wracked by decades of

totalitarian rule — the recent elections to pick members of the Transitional National Assembly signal a powerful turning point.

Bush noted that Safia Taleb al-Suhail, the leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council, having suffered the assassination of her father by Saddam Hussein's goons 11 years ago, had now proudly voted in the elections to pick assembly members who will draft the new constitution. Janet Norwood, who sat behind the Iraqi woman, paid a heavy price to make that election possible. Her son was killed Nov. 13, fighting insurgents in Sunni-dominated Fallujah.

No one understands better the tyranny of the "majority" than women everywhere. It is a shared history, one that denied women the right to vote in America until 1920 and still blocks women from that basic right in "progressive" countries such as Kuwait, where women doctors save lives but can't fully participate in choosing their leaders.

How ever we may feel about the Bush administration's botched-up reasons for going to war in Iraq, there should be unanimity among women of all creeds in supporting elections there. Because it is Iraq's women who not only stand to gain the most, but they may well be the

last, best hope the world has for Iraq to become a transparent democracy. One that respects the different ethnic groups and religious beliefs that Iraq's diverse population espouse. As Iraq goes, so will much of the Middle East.

This wouldn't be the first time that Iraq has granted equal rights for women despite religious objections by those who want Islamic Law, or Sharia, to reign supreme in civil life. In 1959, Iraq decreed equal inheritance rights for men and women, for instance — a law Saddam's Baath Party abolished in 1963. Sunnis got all the privileges under Saddam, and Shiites, who are the majority, suffered his wrath, as did the Kurds in northern Iraq.

The Fedayeen Saddam, the paramilitary group run by Saddam's sadistic son Uday, beheaded more than 200 Iraqi women. (May has rest in hell.) More than 4,000 women, according to the United Nations, were killed, many stoned to death, for "tarnishing family honor."

When the U.S.-appointed Governing Council in Iraq was negotiating last year the conditions for holding elections for a transitional government, the Shiite majority moved to have Sharia govern personal life and family law. No surprise — the council was



Janet Norwood, right, hugs Safia Taleb al-Suhail during the State of the Union address Feb. 2 in Washington. Both women lost loved ones in Iraq.

entirely male.

Resolution 137 would have denied women basic civil rights. It was a defining moment for Iraqi women.

H.E. Naseren Bervari, minister of municipalities and public works and one of only six women among 30 Cabinet posts in Iraq's interim government, calls the resolution "a blessing in disguise." Its passage motivated Iraqi women to organize and demonstrate and successfully represent themselves," she noted last year during a U.S. visit.

Women came together — Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians, Assyrians, Turkmen — to have the

council retract Resolution 137 and then pushed for women to get seats in the transitional government.

Some men walked out in disgust, but the women prevailed. The council set a goal (not a quota) of having women elected to at least 25 percent of the seats in the transitional government. We'll know soon if the goal was met, but hopeful Iraqi women certainly had their say on Election Day.

Safia Taleb al-Suhail and Janet Norwood's embrace was a bittersweet reminder that freedom's best friend everywhere is an ever-hopeful heart.

Mariam Markez is an editorial page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

Bush budget reflects a fighting force in transition

President Bush has presented what is barring shooting wars with Iran, Syria or North Korea — almost certainly will be the largest defense budget of his presidency. It calls for spending \$419 billion, 4.8 percent more than last year's \$400 billion, or 41 percent more than his first budget proposal in 2001.

Jack Kelly



The budget doesn't include the costs of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will be covered in an \$80 billion supplemental appropriation later this year.

When the supplemental is added to the president's budget, total defense spending, in inflation-adjusted dollars, will be about 15 percent higher than the average for defense spending during the Cold War, said Steven Kosiak, an analyst for the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Congress almost certainly will approve both the budget request and the supplemental this year without much alteration, Kosiak said. But congressional attitudes will change in the years to come if President Bush is reasonably successful in capping domestic spending, and/or concern about budget deficits rises. Almost all the budget cuts made in the late 1980s and early 1990s were made in defense, he noted.

Defense spending is higher now in substantial part because of cuts made during the Clinton administration. Pentagon leaders are trying not only to fight a war, but to recover spending on modern weapons deployed during the Clinton years.

Military leaders customarily make unrealistic spending plans, assuming, against all evidence, that they'll get well in the out years. With congressional and public attitudes like-

ly soon to turn sharply south, bitter choices need to be made.

Retired Marine Col. Robert Work, now a colleague of Kosiak's at CSBA, said this year's is a "holding budget." It postpones all the hard decisions on procurement to the latter part of the future year defense plan. We won't know what they'll be until after the QDR."

The Quadrennial Defense Review is an examination of defense strategy that occurs in the first year of a presidential term. Normally, the military services hold most of the cards in these reviews, because the defense secretary and his aides customarily are new at their jobs, so they defer to what the services say they need, said Work, who was an aide to the secretary of the Navy during the last QDR.

But this year, he said, a "perfect storm" is brewing. Donald Rumsfeld has been through a QDR before, as has most of his management team. And the war on terror has revealed a quite different enemy from

the one the military was planning to fight. From the end of the Cold War until the insurgency in Iraq, military planning has focused on being able to fight two regional conventional conflicts at the same time. The military planned to smash the enemy quickly — chiefly through air power — and then go home.

But the insurgency in Iraq shows there are no quick exits in the war on terror, and today's enemies are unwilling to concentrate in places and ways that make them easy to smash. Rumsfeld wants to reorient defense planning and force structure on the assumptions that an attack on the U.S. homeland — possibly with nuclear weapons — is the central threat, and that the global war on terror is not going to end any time soon.

There are powerful hints of this reorientation in this year's budget. It contains \$9.5 billion for items pertaining to homeland security — items that didn't appear in the defense budget at all before Sept. 11.

Special Operations Command — which

contains commandos from the Army, Navy and Air Force — will grow by 200 civilians and 1,200 military personnel.

The Army and Marine Corps are adding combat units, while the Navy and Air Force are shedding some sailors and airmen.

Spending for unmanned systems such as the Predator drone and "transitional" weapons such as the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship and the Army's Future Combat System received increases, while traditional Navy shipbuilding and Air Force aircraft procurement took major hits.

These hits were taken while the defense budget was growing substantially. There will be more and deeper cuts when defense budgets stabilize, or go down. The Pentagon is about to be transformed into a slaughterhouse for sacred cows. The bleating will be heard to high heaven.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Murder charge

GA DAHLONEGA — A man who reported his wife missing more than 11 years ago has been charged with her murder after authorities following a tip found bones and clothes they believe belonged to the woman.

David Lamar Dowdy, 61, was charged just hours after investigators found the remains they think belonged to his wife, Villa Inez Dowdy, on federal land in northern Georgia.

A Georgia Bureau of Investigation analysis will determine if the remains belong to the woman, who was reported missing in September 1993 at the age of 42.

Robbery suspect nabbed

VA ATLANTIC CITY — A suspect in a string of deadly jewelry store robberies was captured by police at a \$39-a-night motel just one block from police headquarters after officers surrounded his hideout and persuaded him to give up.

Christopher DiMeo, 23, surrendered peacefully after officers surrounded the Ascot Motel, where he and his girlfriend had checked in the day before.

He was jailed on a parole violation from New York state, but is suspected in four robberies and three killings, including the deaths of a couple in Fairfield, Conn., authorities said.

Authorities believe DiMeo chatted up store employees for as long as 45 minutes before the robberies, saying he was looking for an engagement ring, then pulled out a gun and took merchandise worth hundreds of thousands of dollars altogether. Police had described him as talkative and engaging, with piercing blue eyes.

School seeks students

KS LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Virtual School wants to expand. It hopes to add to the 144 online students it taught in its first year by hosting 40 open house programs around Kansas.

Students work mostly from home, staying in touch with teachers by computer. Parents must have regular parent-teacher conferences by phone, in person or e-mail.

Police: Baby abused

TX HOUSTON — A young couple are accused of critically injuring their 6-month-old baby, who police say was sexually assaulted, suffered broken bones from head to toe, and had her tongue nearly severed.

Donna Marie Norman, 19, and her common-law husband, Ivan Castaneda, 21, were jailed without bail on charges of causing injury to a child.

The infant was in critical condition at a hospital. She was transferred there after her parents brought her to another hospital, saying she was suffering from congestion.

Norman told doctors the infant's tongue was severed when she tried to remove a quarter from the baby's mouth that had been placed there by her 15-month-old sister, prosecutor Karl Allen said. "Obviously, that is a bit far-fetched," Allen told a judge at a hearing.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Boys escape icy lake

VT BURLINGTON — Two boys fell through the ice on Lake Champlain while skating near the Burlington shoreline, although they were able to pull themselves out of the 34-degree water and reach shore, according to an eyewitness.

Greg Noonan was watching the two boys skate on broad lake ice below his home. The boys skated over some rough ice, Noonan said, then some thin ice. Then they were gone.

"They dropped like a shot," Noonan said. "They just went through."

Noonan grabbed his phone, called 911 and rushed out of his house to get down to the shore on a route that took him out of view of the lake for an instant. When Noonan saw the boys again, they were back on the ice. Noonan and two neighbors helped the boys to the shore and up to a house.

Egg McMuffin rage

MI HOLLAND — A man was fined \$600 and put on probation for throwing an Egg McMuffin at a McDonald's restaurant manager after he said he didn't get what he ordered.

Scott Rodgers, 46, was convicted of misdemeanor assault and bat-

tery. Besides probation, he was sentenced to three days in a work program and a fine and is banned from the McDonald's. Authorities said Rodgers and his 6-year-old son stopped to get four Egg McMuffins with ham on Oct. 9 but returned to the service window to complain that at least one of the sandwiches had sausage.

A sticky situation

LA SHREVEPORT — Add this to the many uses of duct tape.

Ark-La-Tex Narcotics Task Force agents and Caddo Parish sheriff's deputies stopped a man at a Greyhound terminal after they said he was acting suspiciously, sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Chadwick said.

While being patted down for weapons, Charlie Ross told officers it was a back brace they felt around his chest — not nearly \$55,000 in cash stuck to him with duct tape.

Ross, 50, was not able to produce a transaction receipt required under federal law for anyone carrying more than \$10,000 in cash. Chadwick said. He also would not say where he got the money, so he was booked with money laundering, she said.

Authorities learned later that Ross was a fugitive from Ouachita Parish.

Statement cut short

CA SANTA ANA — A retrial in an alleged gang rape got off to a rocky start with the judge cutting off a defense attorney's opening statement after he described the alleged victim as a liar, a drug dealer and a "sex-cracked teenager."

"That's it, we're done for the day," Superior Court Judge Francisco Briseno said, dismissing the jury. He accused lead defense attorney Joseph G. Cavallo of "stepping over the line."

Earlier, prosecutors said Gregory Haidt, 19, son of a former Orange County assistant sheriff, and two 20-year-old friends "crossed the line between outrageous behavior and criminal conduct," by taking part in the gang rape of a 16-year-old girl and videotaping the assault.

School locked down

HI HONOLULU — A Leeward Oahu high school was locked down for about an hour because of a fight on campus.

Six students were arrested following the brawl just before lunchtime at Nanakuli High School, the Department of Education said.

Police said they used pepper spray to break up the fight involving about 50 students.

The school was locked down between 12:15 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

It was the fourth Oahu public school fight in the past week, but it was not clear if the incidents were related, officials said.

Back to work

NV CARSON CITY — The 73rd Nevada Legislature opened with taxes, marijuana, health care and schools among its top issues.

Nevada's 42 Assembly members and 201 senators have 120 days to do the state's business. That is, unless they don't finish in time and Gov. Kenny Guinn summons a special session as in 2003.



Object of my reflection

Jefferson Elementary School fifth-grader Mariah Bokman leaps over a puddle on her way to her safety patrol post in Fairbairn, Minn.



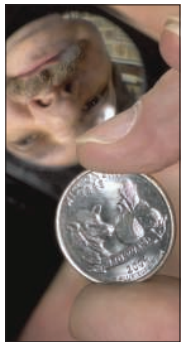
Cooling off

A horse cools down by rolling in the snow in a pasture east of Eagle, Colo.



Pampered pet

Gail Radke of Olathe, Kan., prepares Seattle, a Great Pyrenees, for the show ring at the 70th annual St. Joseph Kennel Club dog show in St. Joseph, Mo. Radke said Seattle loves the grooming and often sleeps through it.



Coin defect

Rob Weiss, owner of Old Pueblo Coin Exchange Inc. in Tucson, Ariz., holds one of several Wisconsin quarters he found with unusual markings resembling extra com leaves on the back. The U.S. Mint is trying to determine how the differences came about.



Hanging around

Denzay Wilson, 6, of Salina, Kan., plays at the Oakdale School playground in Salina. Denzay's father, Isaac Wilson, had taken a group of children out for an evening of play in the unseasonably warm weather.



Stuck in the muck

Doug Miller, left, and Aubrey Clark, both from Leaksville, Miss., free their covered wagon from the mud in Hattiesburg, Miss. The two are part of the Leaf Trail Riders, a group of 10 wagons that stopped over in Hattiesburg while traveling to Jackson, Miss.



Festive attire

Tiffany Tran, 7, wearing a traditional Chinese dress, dances during the Chinese New Year Festival in Oakland, Calif.



Do not try this at home

Using his tractor and a chain saw, Ron Schultz of Lanark, Ill., reaches up to trim branches from a tree.

A mansion needs these

AR LITTLE ROCK — Plans for a new governor's mansion include a reflecting pool, a classical temple and a pyramid-shaped vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom. Radio station KUAR obtained architectural drawings for the 8,700-square-foot complex that would adjoin the current mansion. Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife say they have only 1,000 or so square feet of private living space.

Dress code dispute

KY SHEPHERDSVILLE — Lisa Whiteside began protesting outside Bullitt Central High School after learning that two Muslim students who had enrolled after winter break had been allowed to wear a hijab, which covers the head and neck.

Whiteside said her son, a senior, was given in-school suspension for wearing a white button-down shirt rather than the mandated polo-style shirts.

School board attorney Eric Farris said that school records indicated that the student wasn't disciplined, but received a warning Sept. 1 that his shirt was in violation of the dress code.

Though the dress code also prohibits headwear, Farris said federal protections of such religious garments as hijabs take precedence.

School officials and students said Whiteside's protests attracted the attention of the Ku Klux Klan. She was joined outside the school by other men and women, some of whom were clad in white robes and carried Confederate flags and white-supremacist regalia.

Whiteside said she didn't organize any involvement with the KKK, adding that her concerns were being misconstrued as racial-driven.

No abuse found

MO KANSAS CITY — A jury acquitted a businessman in his third trial on charges he sexually abused his stepdaughter over a three-year period.

Theodore White, 42, of Lee's Summit, was cleared of 12 charges, including statutory rape and statutory sodomy. Jurors deliberated about two hours.

White was convicted in February 1999 of molesting his stepdaughter over three years starting in 1995, when the girl was 10 years old. He fled to Costa Rica while awaiting sentencing but was captured after the case was featured on the TV show "America's Most Wanted." He was returned to Missouri and sentenced to 50 years in prison.

White was retried after the state Court of Appeals found that prosecutors did not reveal that a detective investigating the allegations had an affair with White's estranged wife.

Mail transformation

NY VESTAL — A former shopping plaza is being transformed into a housing complex for University of Binghamton students.

Developers of the \$40 million project said the complex will be able to house 700 students and a few businesses. The Binghamton University Foundation and private developers funding the project expect the complex will be ready for the fall semester.

Teen blames Zoloff

SC CHARLESTON — A teenager who contends the antidepressant Zoloff turned him into a killer stood in court and acknowledged he shot his grandparents as they slept and set their house on fire.

Christopher Pittman agreed when Judge Danny Pieper read a statement the defense doesn't contest that the then-12-year-old killed his father's parents when he was living with them in rural Chester County in September 2001.

Prosecutors contend Christopher shot Joe and Joy Pittman with a pump-action shotgun because they disciplined him for fighting on a school bus. The 15-year-old is being tried as an adult for murder and could get 30 years to life in prison if convicted.

The defense claims Christopher was under the influence of Zoloff and couldn't tell right from wrong at the time of the slayings.

Zoloff maker Pfizer has vigorously fought Zoloff's inclusion in antidepressants cause violent or suicidal behavior.

And laptops for all

CT HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Rell is proposing that the state spend more than \$15 million to provide laptop computers for all ninth- and 10th-grade English classrooms. Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg proposed the project because the state will eventually put the Connecticut Academic Performance Test online. The tests measure proficiency in math, reading and science.

Teacher goals rewarded

MN LA CRESCENT — Gone are the days when teachers' salaries rose automatically with years of experience, or academic credits. In this idyllic Mississippi River town, teachers get an annual raise only if they set and fulfill performance goals.

The idea of performance pay — a notion once reviled by most teachers — is getting a warmer reception here.

Teachers are trying hard to prove they're worth the money, from more frequent student testing, to e-mailing parents, to trying out different styles for their students.

Smell just too much

ME FRENCHVILLE — Northern winds have been sending a stench of manure from across the Canadian border, and the people in this St. John Valley town are tired of holding their noses.

"It smells like acid or sulfur, and it's really strong. The last couple of weeks have been really bad," Frenchville Town Manager Philip Levesque said.

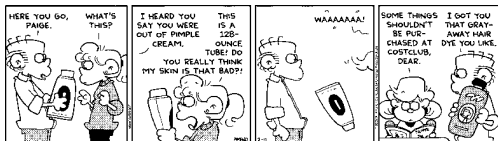
Levesque said the odor comes from a chicken manure composting facility in New Brunswick.

People in the town of about 1,200 say smells from the plant along the St. John River are so bad when the north wind blows outdoor activities are curtailed.

Levesque said complaints to environmental officials have brought no corrective action, so now the town is inviting politicians and government officials from both sides of the St. John River to meet with residents Feb. 16 to air the issue.

Photos and stories from wire services

Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



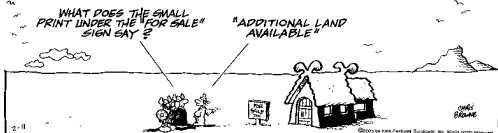
Blondie



Dilbert



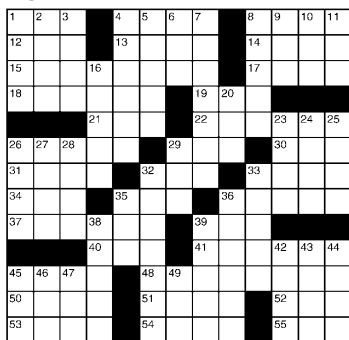
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Barbie's ex
- 4 Cushion inserts
- 8 Reveille's opposite
- 12 Latin 101 word
- 13 Acknowledge
- 14 Saxophone range
- 15 Aggressively active one
- 17 Let the cat out of the bag
- 18 "Seinfeld" role
- 19 Greek letter
- 21 — Moines
- 22 Midori's instrument
- 26 Vestige
- 29 Foundation
- 30 Mrs. McKinley
- 31 Legacy recipient
- 32 Fuel
- 33 Doctor's earnings
- 34 Curve
- 35 Sauté
- 36 Blizzard aftermath
- 37 Much ado about nothing
- 39 Seek damages
- 40 Go lickety-split
- 41 Mortar's partner
- 45 Popular name for poodles
- 48 Tie
- 50 Related
- 51 Former filly
- 52 Actress Jillian
- 53 Fender bender
- 54 Arctic diviers

Down

- 1 Hardy cabbage
- 2 Painter Nolde
- 3 PBS science show
- 4 Sold temporarily
- 5 Trellis climbers
- 6 Postal Creed word
- 7 Turns suddenly
- 8 Forbidden
- 9 The whole thing
- 10 Bake-sale org.
- 11 Turn on the waterworks
- 16 Duck down
- 20 Stashed
- 23 Stead
- 24 Mid-March date
- 25 Post Ogden
- 26 Persian bigwig
- 27 Medal earner
- 28 Puerto —
- 29 Serenade the moon
- 32 Anna Mary Moses' nickname
- 33 Shylack's demand
- 35 Winter woe
- 36 Napped leathers
- 38 Publish
- 39 Activate
- 42 Shipbuilding wood
- 43 Kegler's path
- 44 Sicilian spouter
- 45 Craze
- 46 White House nickname
- 47 Cod piece
- 49 H-deux-O

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-11

CRYPTOQUIP

T S KIM'Z BSASANSB ZTS
 HSMsBDK MIAS PE ZTS
 XDFF, NQZ DZY PM ZTS

ZDX PE TDY ZPMHQS.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: A MOTION PICTURE CONCERNING SOME MISSING PANES WAS DUBBED "GONE WITH THE WINDOW."
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: A equals M

Day sleeper shouldn't be disturbed

Dear Abby: I work a night-shift job, as does my sister-in-law, who lives in my home. People who don't work nights cannot seem to understand the need for us to get our sleep during the day. They frequently call at noon, wondering why we're not up yet. These people know that noon is just like midnight for people who work the day shift. Many nights I get no sleep on less than four hours of sleep, mainly because if people can't reach me on the house phone, they'll call my cell phone, which is the emergency number for my husband and kids.

My answering machine clearly states that I "work nights and sleep days, so please leave a message and I'll return the call."

Your column is widely read, and I'm certain that a good number of other night-shift workers would appreciate it if you could spread the word: Those of us

who work nights need the same amount of sleep that people who work days do.

Sleepless in Missouri
Dear Sleepless: I'm pleased to help spread the word. For callers to bypass your answering machine and use your cell phone number is rude, inconsiderate, and could endanger your health. In the interests of self-preservation, change your cell phone number, and instruct your husband and kids not to disclose it to anyone.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I am the happily married mother of 1-year-old and 2-year-old boys; "Jonathan" is the older and "Kevin" is my baby. Because my elderly parents live close by, we make sure they see our children often. It also makes me every morning to talk to my mother.

It has become clear to my husband and me that Mom fa-

vors Jonathan. When Kevin was an infant, Mom would literally step over him to get to Jonathan. Until it caused a rift, she would "jokingly" refer to Kevin as "the other one."

I have confronted Mother more times than I can count. Most times she denies it; sometimes she says she feels Jonathan is just "special." The boys are still too young to understand, but it won't always be that way. My husband's family is not involved much in our lives, so mine is extra-important. How do I deal with this problem?

—Distressed in Dayton
Dear Distressed: Since reasoning with your mother hasn't helped, it's time to lay down the law. Tell her either she becomes a better actress in dealing with the boys, or you'll be forced to limit her access to them. And if she doesn't shape up, act on it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

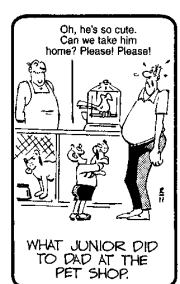
CUHDY	_____
SUGES	_____
THROME	_____
DABINT	_____

Ans: "_____"
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUMMY TAFFY OCELOT GROTTO
Answer: When he ordered one for the road, he — GOT A CAR

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Abuses should be brought to light

Dear Annie: Several of our children, along with other children from our neighborhood, will be going back to their regular day camp this summer. There is one problem — "Willie," the son of the groundskeeper.

This lad is a vile-tongued, sadistic monster who teaches our kids vulgar language, tortures animals, steals, bullies and, in one instance, dumped liquid soap all over a kid's gym bag while the boys were changing clothes. In short, Willie is filth, and he learns it from his father.

Because Willie's father is an employee, the boy gets to do activities with the campers. When one camper came home in tears after Willie's treatment, we called the camp director. We were told Willie is unhappy because his grandfather (the only affectionate relative he had) died recently, and his father hits him a lot if he gets into trouble. The director is reluctant to tell his father to "straighten him

Annie's Mailbox



out." Are our children obligated to put up with this? I don't understand why this emotionally disturbed little trash bag has to be around my children. And please don't tell me I should ask my kids to show Willie love and kindness, because my children are not mental health professionals.

Can I legally force the camp director to do something? Other than this one problem, the camp is a wonderful place. But is it worth it to send my kids there?

—Unsure
Dear Unsure: You have more than one issue going on here. If Willie is being abused by his father, you have an obligation to report it to the authorities. If the camp is not protecting your child from an abusive campmate, you should not send your child there, and the director should know why. If Willie is torturing animals, he has some serious psychopathic tendencies and should

be seen by a therapist before he starts torturing little children the same way. It's time to speak up.

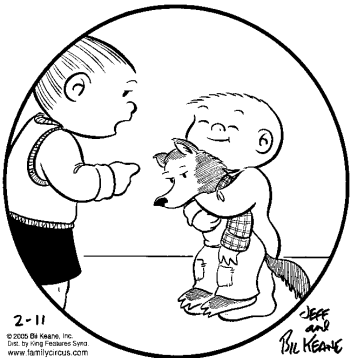
Dear Annie: I am writing about the letter from "Ex-Law Enforcement Civilian in Sacramento, Calif.," who was bullied at work by two women. Believe me, this is not an isolated case. Our son took his life after many months of harassment at his place of employment.

Shortly after his death, another employee took his life. We later found out that our son's death was the fifth suicide in 25 years for this company. Although your writer lost a nice pension, she escaped with her life intact. Unfortunately, our son did not.

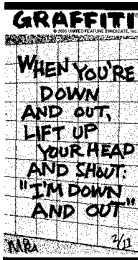
—A Wisconsinite
Dear Wisconsinite: How horrible for you that this situation wasn't discovered and rectified before it was too late.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

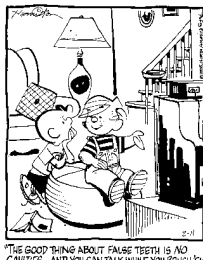
Family Circus



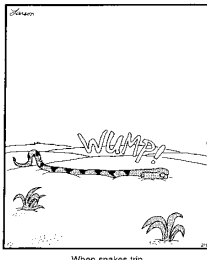
"Don't hug the Big Bad Wolf, P.J. You're s'posed to be afraid of him!"



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequiter

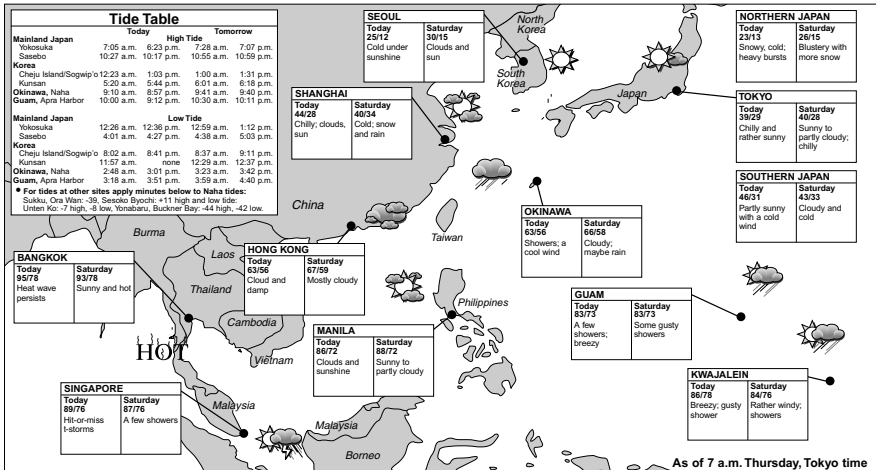


"THE GOOD THING ABOUT FALSE TEETH IS NO CAVITIES... AND YOU CAN TALK WHILE YOU BRUSH 'EM."

When snakes trip

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided
by AccuWeather.com ©2005

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
 high 42, low 32.
 Monday: Mostly sunny,
 high 41, low 32.

KADENA
 Sunday: Partly sunny,
 high 68, low 58.
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
 high 68, low 60.

SEoul
 Sunday: Partly sunny,
 high 34, low 23.
 Monday: Partly sunny,
 high 42, low 27.

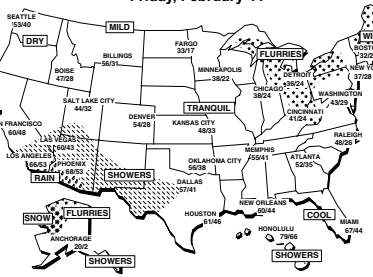
MANILA
 Sunday: Partly sunny,
 high 88, low 74.
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
 high 88, low 74.

HAGATNA
 Sunday: Partly sunny,
 high 85, low 73.
 Monday: Showers,
 high 83, low 73.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	50/28	Los Angeles	71/50
Amarillo	47/26	Little Rock	52/30
Anchorage	39/25	Louisville	46/28
Ashville	56/34	Miami	79/62
Baltimore	60/41	Milwaukee	29/19
Birmingham	63/34	Nashville	52/29
Bismarck	25/11	New York	53/40
Boise	45/26	Omaha	24/9
Boston	48/32	Orlando	79/58
Brownsville	79/57	Philadelphia	57/39
Buffalo	32/22	Phoenix	73/53
Burlington	34/23	Pittsburgh	46/28
Charleston, SC	69/53	Portland, OR	51/34
Charlotte	61/41	Portland, ME	48/26
Cleveland	33/22	Salt Lake City	38/20
Columbus, OH	40/24	St. Louis	36/20
Duluth	21/7	San Antonio	61/42
El Paso	59/40	San Diego	68/52
Hartford	49/33	San Juan	81/60
Helena	40/16	Tampa	77/60
Indianapolis	38/22	Tulsa	38/26
Jacksonville	77/52	Washington, DC	62/40
Kansas City	30/16	Wichita	37/22

Friday, February 11



U.S. Extended Forecast

Blizzard conditions will occur across Maine on Friday as a storm system moves northward. In the wake of this system, morning snow will taper off across the rest of New England, but gusty winds will continue to howl throughout the day over the Northeast. A few flurries will fall over the Great Lakes. As a large dome of high pressure becomes firmly established over Texas, chilly air will sweep southward into the Southeast despite plenty of sunshine. Abundant sun will also shine across the Plains and into the Pacific Northwest under the dominance of another high pressure. A storm system will bring rain, heavy at times, to the Southwest. The rain will continue to dampen this region on Saturday.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	95/78	Iwakuni	42/26
Beijing	36/20	Kadena AB	63/56
Camp Casey	26/9	Kunsan AB	31/19
Diego Garcia	71/58	Kwajalein	86/78
Hagatna	87/78	Manila	86/72
Hanoi	83/73	Masawa AB	28/18
Hong Kong	63/56	Osan	28/10
Honolulu	79/66	Pusan	36/23

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/74	Budapest	37/26	Kabul	41/17
Athens	46/38	Buenos Aires	77/63	Kiev	24/23
Auckland	76/59	Cairo	59/34	Kuwait	53/36
Baghdad	50/27	Cancun	74/58	London	50/46
Barbados	87/70	Cape Town	75/57	Madrid	59/37
Barcelona	56/43	Geneva	41/41	Mexico City	73/46
Berlin	36/28	Istanbul	35/25	Montreal	24/17
Bermuda	45/39	Jerusalem	45/39	Mogadishu	93/78
Brussels	44/36	Johannesburg	89/66	Moscow	25/10
				Warsaw	38/30



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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Friday

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-noon: Charlotte at Indiana.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-noon: PGA Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, first round.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-noon: College basketball: Kentucky at Louisiana State.

AFN-Radio, 9 a.m.-noon: KIA Nite Show at LA Lakers at Detroit.

AFN-Atlantic, 11 a.m.-college basketball: Xavier at Cincinnati.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Sacramento at Phoenix.

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-NBA: Indiana at the NBA.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-college basketball: North Carolina State at Wake Forest (the NBA).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-college basketball: Gonzaga at Pepperdine (the NBA).

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-college basketball: Washington at Oregon (the NBA).

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-noon: PGA Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, second round.

AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.-NBA: San Antonio at Phoenix.

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.-NBA: KIA Nite Show at LA Lakers at Phoenix.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Dallas at Sacramento.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-boxing: Laila Ali vs. Cassandra Geiger (d.p.).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard Time. Listings indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Tuesday

1. Illinois (24-0) beat Miami 57-51. Next: vs. No. 20 Wisconsin, Saturday.

2. North Carolina (19-2) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Duke, Wednesday.

3. Kansas (18-1) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Wednesday.

4. Connecticut College (10-1) lost to Notre Dame 66-65. Next: vs. Rutgers, Wednesday, Feb. 16.

5. Kentucky (18-0) beat Florida 64-54. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.

6. Wake Forest (19-3) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina State, Thursday.

7. Duke (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 North Carolina, Wednesday.

8. Virginia Tech (19-1) did not play. Next: at No. 22 Villanova, Saturday.

9. Villanova (20-3) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Wednesday.

10. Oklahoma State (18-3) did not play. Next: at Texas A&M, Saturday.

11. Washington (19-3) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Wednesday.

12. Arizona (19-4) did not play. Next: at Southern California, Thursday.

13. Michigan State (15-4) did not play. Next: at North State, Wednesday.

14. Utah (20-4) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Thursday.

15. Georgia Tech (17-4) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Saturday.

16. Alabama (17-5) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Wednesday.

17. Washington (16-4) beat St. John's 55-44. Next: vs. No. 2 North Carolina, Saturday.

18. Connecticut (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Thursday.

19. Cincinnati (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Syracuse, Saturday.

20. Minnesota (15-7) lost to Colorado 88-79. Next: vs. Kansas State, Saturday.

21. Pacific (18-2) did not play. Next: at Idaho, Thursday.

22. Texas Tech (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Wednesday.

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST

Albright 81, Westminster 60.

Amherst 80, Lasell 78.

Brockport 80, Buffalo 74.

Clark 79, Curry 79.

Cornell 77, Colgate 71.

Defiance 82, Fordham 63.

Delaware Valley 66, Drew 51.

Elizabethtown 81, Juniata 68.

Emerson 102, Albertus Magnus 77.

Endicott 52, Nazarene 49.

Franklin 57, New York 77.

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MLB's silence on steroids lends Canseco credibility

Every word in Jose Canseco's book could be true.

Or only a few.

Either way, it's exactly what baseball deserves. Just about everybody else in the game tripped over themselves trying to blur the lines between fair and foul for the last 15 years or so. By default, that makes even a convicted criminal and shameless publicity hound like Canseco as reliable a source as any other.

It's what happens when honest men speak quiet.

"If this is all made up, he'll suffer some serious damages," ex-A's pitcher and one-time teammate Dave Stewart told the San Francisco Chronicle. "But if you're an admitted steroid user, believe me, you'd know who uses them."

Canseco is one of four stars from the game's superized era who have either publicly acknowledged using juice or, according to reports, testified to doing so before a grand jury. One of the four, Ken Caminiti, is dead. A second, Gary Sheffield, says he took them unwittingly. The third, Jimmy Gimambi, has yet to confirm any of

Jim Litke



ing names. The buzz surrounding his version of events is so considerable that his publisher, HarperCollins, has moved the book's release date to a week, from Feb. 21 to next Monday and the CBS program "60 Minutes," which planned to air a segment on Canseco on Feb. 20, will now broadcast it on Sunday. But they're not the only ones launching pre-emptive strikes.

No exerts have surfaced yet, but accounts in *The Daily News* of New York claim Canseco writes that he injected Mark McGwire with steroids when they were teammates in Oakland and

that he taught Ivan Rodriguez, Juan Gonzalez and Rafael Palmeiro how to use muscle-building drugs after he moved his operation to Texas in 1992.

All three of his former Rangers teammates quickly rejected the allegations, and McGwire has repeatedly denied using steroids. Then again, even after Associated Press columnist Steve Wilstein discovered androstenedione sitting in the open on the top shelf of McGwire's locker in 1998 — before baseball banned the steroid pre-cursor — the St. Louis slugger kept insisting that somebody "stuck their nose in my locker." That's not what happened.

What did happen, though, was this: McGwire publicly acknowledged taking androstenedione the day after a club official was asked for comment. But a day earlier, this was what that club official said: "Use the stuff? He didn't even know how to spell it."

That kind of disinformation has clouded the issue ever since baseballs began flying out of ballparks across the land in alarming numbers. The suits in charge and too many ballplayers, managers and

trainers who knew better said the baseballs were wound too tight, the bats were too hard, the new ballparks were too small — just about every explanation was trotted out except the most obvious one. That the ballplayers had become too big.

That, however, was Canseco's explanation — he alleged a few years ago that 80 percent of major leaguers had taken steroids — and he's sticking to it. Without confirming any of the details, he told *The New York Times*, "I will give a huge press conference, internationally and worldwide, when the book comes out. I'll answer any questions then."

If anybody else who posted the numbers Canseco did — 462 home runs in a big league career from 1985-2001 — promised to tell all, the hysteria would be more real than imagined. But because Canseco's past words and deeds under the white lines have inspired so little credibility, this latest salvo is easy to shrug off. The incidents he will describe likely will be specific enough to ring true, but Canseco is the worst kind of messenger. On top

of that, nobody likes a stoolie.

Spring training camps open in a few days, guaranteeing some uncomfortable moments for the players and club executives who will have to answer some tough questions. It's still high for them to come forward on the same questions the game's fans have been wrestling with for a while.

How much of the offensive barrage we all witnessed was the natural progression of athletes working smarter and harder, and how much was simply better hitting through chemistry and/or hardware, we compare the legitimacy of the era that just ended with those that have gone before? Those aren't just philosophical queries, either. Before you look at Barry Bonds will be closing in on Hank Aaron's career mark of 755 home runs and baseball's higher-ups will have to decide on how to mark the occasion, or whether to mark it at all.

The only thing that we can be sure of is that Canseco won't make the short list of players who helped Bud Selig seek out for advice.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for *The Associated Press*. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

Nationals' assembly line working overtime

By JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a temporary office in the nation's capital, the president of the Washington Nationals is trying to complete a to-do list 65 items long, a task that has become more maddening by the red tape he seems to encounter at every turn.

"What will be a miracle," Tony Taveres said, "is if I make it to Opening Day without assaulting a lawyer."

In more permanent accommodations in Viera, Fla., the interim general manager has spent three months trying to improve a last-place team with a limited budget.

"You never have enough time," Jim Bowden said. "I didn't start until Nov. 2, so you're behind a little bit, but we're very excited."

Ready or not, the Nationals are about to take the field.

Pitchers and catchers report to Viera on Tuesday, followed five days later by the rest of the roster. The ongoing logistics scramble in Washington — further complicated by a lost week in December when city politics almost derailed the move — will soon lead a parallel existence with the pop, mitts and other baseball sounds.

"I kept having faith it would happen," Bowden said. "Even when we had that little setback in December, I still thought at the end of the day everyone would come together and do the right thing, and the right thing finally happened."

While the spring training complex is the same, as is much of the roster, there's a whole lot new for the former Montreal Expos. The era of living in limbo is finally over now that baseball has decided on a permanent home for the franchise, and a modest increase in the payroll has allowed him to reverse the outward talent flow of the last few years.

"It's weird," closer Chad Cordero said, "because every time I turn on ESPN, I see the bottom line, and I see they just signed Jimmy Castillo or Esteban Loaiza. It's definitely cool to see how they're trying to get all those guys. I'll be fun to go down to spring training and see all the new faces and put on the new uniforms and stuff."



Washington Nationals shortstop Cristian Guzman puts on his new uniform during a news conference on Feb. 2 in Washington. Guzman is one of the key signings in the lineup being assembled by interim general manager Jim Bowden for Opening Day.

Working with an absolute upper limit of \$50 million — up from last year's \$43 million Opening Day roster but still low on the major league totem pole — Bowden couldn't re-sign free agent Tony Batista, but he was able to snag third baseman Castillo and shortstop Cristian Guzman in free agency and work a trade for outfielder Jose Guillen.

The newcomers join top returnees such as outfielder Brad Wilkerson, second baseman Jose Vidro, first baseman Nick Johnson and catcher Brian Schneider, giving manager Frank Robinson the makings of a respectable lineup, though without much depth if someone gets hurt.

Pitching is another story. The starting rotation has more than its share of hard-luck stories. Tomo Ohka had his arm broken by a line drive last year. Zach Day broke a finger trying to bunt. Tony Armas Jr. spent

the season recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Livan Hernandez is the ace of the staff, a title deserved just for making it through the entire season without a major calamity. Bowden tried to upgrade by pursuing young pitchers Odalis Perez and Jarret Wright. "And then all of a sudden the market just blew up in our faces," Bowden said. "And there's nothing we could do about."

So he ended up with Loaiza, gambling that the inconsistent right-hander can regain the form that produced 21 victories for the Chicago White Sox two years ago.

"We knew we couldn't afford guys who made \$5.15 million, so we concentrated on guys we could afford to fill all the holes," Bowden said. "I said when I took the job that we wanted to improve at right field, shortstop and third base. With Guillen,

Guzman and Castillo, I think we did that. Obviously we wanted to get a starting pitcher capable of 180 innings. At the end of the day we got a guy that's been a two-time All-Star that won 20 games."

Throughout the negotiations, Bowden found Washington to be his best selling point. If the team still was in Montreal — even with a \$50 million budget — he said he wouldn't have enjoyed the same success.

"You don't have Cristian Guzman if it isn't for Washington, D.C.," Bowden said. "He signed here because he and his agent had the vision to know what this market was going to be, and they wanted to be a part of it. We don't make the Jose Guillen trade if it isn't for Washington, D.C."

Now the players have to hope D.C. will be ready for them in April. The good news is that RFK Stadium is on pace for its overhaul to be completed on time to host an exhibition game April 3 and the home opener 12 days later. The bad news is that the team doesn't yet have a television deal, a mascot — and a bunch of other things on Taveres' 65-item list.

"There's a litany of issues," Taveres said. "Locking down our budgets for game-day staff, deciding on how many ushers, how many ticket-takers, how many security guards. Who's the cleaning contract? Who's the parking contract? The concession deal? It's tedious kind of things, like getting our tax ID locally."

Executive vice president Kevin Ullich's duties run the gamut. He's managing the promotions schedule so kids will know when they can run the bases, but he's also working to help select an architect for the new ballpark that needs to be built by 2008. He's doing all this in a makeshift workplace because the team's new offices inside RFK won't be ready until the end of March at the earliest.

Still, the sense of urgency that everything on Taveres' list will get done in time for Washington's first baseball season since 1971 — even if a few of the less important matters run a little behind the schedule.

"We're going to do it. We're going to find out what will fall into that category," Ullich said. "We're looking at it globally, but right now the focus is on that first weekend."

TV workers strike hails men's ski race

By ANDREW DAMPF

The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — A race at the Alpine World Championships was postponed Wednesday when Italian TV workers went on strike, a dispute that comes with the Winter Olympics a year away and the IOC to meet this week in Turin.

"We could have certainly done without this," Italian Olympic Committee President Gianni Petrucci said.

Thousands were on their way to the course for the men's giant slalom when word of the strike came an hour before the start.

The race at the worlds — skiing's biggest event after the Olympics — was rescheduled for Thursday, originally an off day for competition. The championships are to end Sunday, and three other races are scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Turin Games organizers generally have received good marks from the International Olympic Committee after a series of successful test events, but budget shortfalls and this strike could heighten concerns.

"I'm disappointed, angry and frustrated," International Ski Federation general secretary Sarah Lewis said. "Everything was ready to go — 156 athletes and fan clubs had traveled especially to be there. The giant slalom is always one of the most exciting events."

Strikes are common in Italy, although they usually are confined to domestic issues and events. This was the first time that issues and organized by a small Milan union of Rai state TV workers. Some fans in the finish area attacked an Rai truck when they learned about the strike, forcing police to step in.

"As an IOC member I told the Turin organizing committee two

years ago that they should try to have a law against strikes during the Olympics, and so far nothing I know has happened," FIS President Gian Franco Kasper.

The Turin organizing committee responded Wednesday by saying it intends to create an arrangement with workers' organizations that stipulates a "trade union truce" during the Games.

Kasper called the protest a "wildcat strike." He said that under Italian law strikes by public services must be announced 24 hours beforehand and this was therefore an "illegal" strike.

U.S. head coach Phil McNichol said "the biggest loss today is ski racing."

"Racing is at an all-time low, we're trying to get a stronger foothold in TV and yet we can't hold a world championships race because of television," McNichol said. "It's extremely disappointing."

Ken Read, head of the Canadian team and a former downhill racer of the 1980s, was despondent. "This is no way to gain sympathy for their cause."

While not blamed for the strike, the local organizing committee in Bormio was chastened.

"Constitution, anger, embarrassment, shame. These are [our] reactions," the committee said in a statement. "Certain things only happen in Italy, and right now it's a day to forget in Bormio."

Kasper said he was informed of the strike three Tuesday night but was unable to assemble a makeshift crew of Swiss, German and Austrian TV workers.

He said a FIS TV crew would be in place if the strike continued Thursday, and the race might proceed even without TV.

"We can carry out a competition with no TV," Kasper said. "But we have to think about our (TV) spectators. We already don't have many spectators at our races, especially here."

Sports briefs

"Or we could put together a team that would compete on the World Cup," Miller wrote. "We could get Barilla or one of our major sponsors to cover us. Each of the guys would have a salary, so guys who were not as good would get consistent pay."

Miller was referring to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, he said the team doesn't treat the sport "the way it deserves to be treated for the amount of money that's in it. Lots of guys on the team don't make a sufficient income to live on. They don't get medical coverage."

"They're expected to abide by all kinds of rules and not have fun because of the way the schedule is drawn. With my team, everyone would have a chance to have some down time and party."

The 27-year-old from Franco-

Cubs trade Fansworth to Tigers

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs traded right-handed reliever Kyle Fansworth and a player to be named to the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday for pitcher Roberto Novoa and two minor leaguers. Fansworth was 4-5 with a 4.73 ERA last season.

The Cubs traded Fansworth to the Tigers for Novoa, who had a 3.11 ERA last season. He struck out 78 batters in 66 1/3 innings.

"Kyle Fansworth is an established major league relief pitcher," Tigers President Dave Dombrowski said in a statement.

"He can pitch in many roles out of our bullpen and is a quality addition to our pitching staff."

In six seasons with the Cubs, the 26-year-old Fansworth went 22-37 with a 4.73 ERA.

Novoa split time between Detroit and Double-A Erie in 2004. In 16 games with the Tigers, the right-hander was 1-1 with a 5.57 ERA.

Chicago also picked up third baseman Scott Moore and outfielder Bo Flowers in the trade.

Moore hit .223 with 14 home runs and 56 RBI in 118 games at Class A Lakeland last season. Flowers played the majority of the season at Class A Oneonta, hitting .280 with four home runs and 26 RBIs in 66 games.

San Francisco to host 2007 All-Star Game

SAN FRANCISCO — Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig will be in San Francisco on Wednesday to announce that the Giants will host the 2007 All-Star Game.

It was widely reported during the World Series in October that the Giants would get the game, but Selig now will make it official. This will be the city's first time

Briefs

staging baseball's midsummer classic since 1984, and a great chance to showcase SBC Park, the Giants' beautiful waterfront stadium that opened in 2000. The club has topped 3 million in attendance all five seasons since the ballpark opened — thanks in large part to the popularity of slugger Barry Bonds.

The last time the city had the All-Star Game was July 10, 1984, at Candlestick Park, where the National League won 3-1.

Schilling could be ready for Opening Day

BOSTON — Curt Schilling might be ready for Opening Day after all.

The Boston Red Sox ace who underwent ankle surgery after the team won the World Series is throwing again, and manager Terry Francona wouldn't be shocked if Schilling starts against the Yankees and their new pitching star in the season opener April 3 in New York.

"It gives him a target date to shoot for," Francona said Tuesday. "It's the Yankees. It's Randy Johnson. That revs him up even more."

Schilling told The Associated Press on Tuesday that pitching the opener was still his goal.

"I'm feeling very good about things now," he said.

On Dec. 6, he told WEEI-AM radio that his rehabilitation was taking longer than he had expected and said, "As of right now, the timetable looks something later than Opening Day."

General Manager Theo Epstein received an encouraging update Tuesday from one of the team's trainers.

"The club is very happy with the progress he's made," Epstein said. "It's premature [to say] he'll be ready by Opening Day, but we

like the progress he made from the surgery and his throwing program's going well."

Pitchers and catchers are scheduled to report to Boston's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla., on Feb. 17.

Martinez reports early to spring training

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Pedro Martinez started his first season with the New York Mets earlier than expected.

Martinez surprised the team Tuesday by showing up early for spring training. 10 days before the first scheduled workout for pitchers, catchers and players coming off injuries. He had said he would arrive on the voluntary reporting date (Feb. 17), but later decided to make the short trip from his home in Miami.

"I'm just here to work out," Martinez said. "I need to continue working just like I was doing in the Dominican. And there's no better place to do it since I live so close."

The 33-year-old Martinez lifted weights and played long toss, and plans to throw off a mound on Wednesday.

The former Red Sox ace signed a \$53 million, four-year contract with New York in December and wanted to set an example for his new teammates. This offseason, Mets General Manager Omar Minaya also added free-agent center fielder Carlos Beltran and first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz, Martinez's former teammate in Boston.

Silva, Twins agree to contract

MINNEAPOLIS — Right-handed Carlos Silva and the Minnesota Twins avoided arbitration by agreeing Tuesday to a two-year contract that guarantees him \$5.05 million.

Silva went 14-8 with a 4.21 ERA in 203 innings last year for the three-time AL Central champion. He threw one shutout and allowed 255 hits with 35 walks and 76 strikeouts.

Miller suggests starting own ski team, rival circuit

The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — World ski champion Bode Miller said he may quit the U.S. team after the 2006 Winter Olympics to start his own squad or establish a rival professional circuit, according to a weekly diary he publishes in several newspapers around the world.

In the column, Miller says Alpine skiers are paid poorly and have considered several options.

A lot of people are wondering if I'm going to return after the 2006 Olympics, which is a possibility," Miller wrote in the Wednesday page of his diary from the Alpine World Championships. "One possibility is to take a year off after the Olympics. An other alternative I've thought a little about is phasing myself out of the U.S. Ski Team and starting my own team."

Miller said he and teammate Erik Schoppy have talked about starting a new pro tour.

"I'm not sure if I should start my own team or if I should join an existing one," Miller wrote. "I'm not sure if I should start my own team or if I should join an existing one."

Miller wrote, "We could get Barilla or one of our major sponsors to cover us. Each of the guys would have a salary, so guys who were not as good would get consistent pay."

Miller was referring to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, he said the team doesn't treat the sport "the way it deserves to be treated for the amount of money that's in it. Lots of guys on the team don't make a sufficient income to live on. They don't get medical coverage."

"They're expected to abide by all kinds of rules and not have fun because of the way the schedule is drawn. With my team, everyone would have a chance to have some down time and party."

The 27-year-old from Franco-

nia, N.H., leads the overall World Cup standings and has further enhanced his fame with victories in the downhill and super-G at the World Championships.

He has won six World Cup races this season, starting with his first career victory in the super-G and downhill in December to join a few other ski greats — Pirmin Zurbriggen, Gunther Mader, Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Marc Girardelli — as the only men to win four disciplines in their career.

Canisius hockey team's behavior leads to resignations

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Canisius College athletic director Tim Dillon and associate athletic director Marshall Foley have resigned following an investigation into the hockey team's conduct during a December road trip that left a hotel room damaged and a player injured.

Interim coach Clancy Seymour

was reprimanded for not asserting more control over the team.

The resignations were announced Wednesday by school president Vincent Cooke, who called the behavior "completely unacceptable to Canisius College."

The school's investigation determined that team members visited a Grand Forks nightclub following their game at the University of North Dakota and continued drinking alcohol well into the morning during a party in a student's room.

Four players were suspended for two games in January, nearly a month after the incident.

Cooke said the lack of an immediate response by athletics department officials further compounded an already bad situation.

Alameda pulls out of Paris tournament

PARIS — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova pulled out of

the Open Gaz de France on Wednesday because of a respiratory ailment.

"I'm very disappointed I won't be playing in Paris this year," Sharapova said in a statement. "My doctor's best condition and will not be able to perform at my best."

LGU opens play to transsexual golfers

LONDON — Transsexual golfers will be allowed to play in this year's women's British and Irish women's golf championship, a policy change made by the Ladies Golf Union.

The move, announced Wednesday, comes 11 months after Danish-born Mianne Bagger became the first male-born golfer to play in a professional women's tournament.

The LGU, which governs amateur golf in Britain and also runs the women's British Open, follows a similar move made last year by the Ladies European Tour, the governing body of professional women's golf in Europe.

North Carolina seniors finally finding success

BY AARON BEARD

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — As a high school senior, Jackie Manuel watched North Carolina earn a No. 1 ranking, finish tied for first in the Atlantic Coast Conference and reach the NCAA tournament.

Standard stuff for anyone wearing a Tar Heels jersey, he figured.

Instead, Manuel, Jawad Williams and Melvin Scott walked in as freshmen to probably the most turbulent time the storied program has known. That included an 8-20 season, missed NCAA tournament bids and an ugly closing change.

Now, with North Carolina ranked No. 2 heading into Wednesday's game at Duke, the seniors are finally having the kind of success they expected would be an annual occurrence.

"We just sit back and laugh at it and say, 'Man, it's about time,'" Scott said. "This is what it's supposed to be like. We were supposed to enjoy this for four years."

"We've been patient and it's our time. If anybody deserves to win, it's us."

After three years of rebuilding, North Carolina (19-2, 8-1 ACC) is now routinely mentioned as a favorite to reach the Final Four.

All but one of its wins have come by double-digit margins, with the Tar Heels beating opponents by an average of 23 points.

The seniors have played key roles, with Williams averaging about 15

points, Manuel starting every game as the team's top defensive player and Scott shooting 39 percent from three-point range off the bench.

But more importantly, they're having fun.

"I definitely think [the success] means the most to them," junior David Noel said. "It's really been a tough road for those three guys, but this year has been a breeze for them. ... I'm happy for them and hopefully we can take them out with a bang."

That would be quite a leap forward from the start of their careers.

First came the eight-win season in 2001-02, the school's first losing record since Dean Smith's first season in 1962. That ended a streak of 27 straight NCAA tournament appearances and a 31-year run of 20-win seasons.

The next year, the three had to adjust their roles when then-coach Matt Doherty brought in the recruiting class of Rashad McCants, Raymond Felton and Sean May. That team finished 19-16 and reached the NIT quarterfinals, but made more headlines when Doherty resigned after the season.

Included in the public split were reports that players and parents complained to athletic director Dick Baddour about Doherty's intense practices and drastic mood swings.

By the time Roy Williams took over as coach, the three had been through everything from considering whether to transfer to the pain of seeing the

once-proud program struggle on their watch.

"It was crazy, a crazy time," Manuel said.

Doherty said last week that he felt badly that his first recruiting class faced those tough years.

"No young person needs to go through what they went through," he said.

Despite this year's success, the trio is quick to point out that the Tar Heels have plenty left to accomplish. Jawad Williams, Manuel and Scott are 1-6 against the rival Blue Devils, and are winless in three tries at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

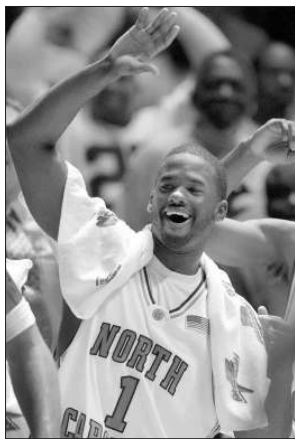
They have yet to finish among the top three in the ACC standings, which the Tar Heels have for 37 consecutive seasons before the 8-20 debacle.

And then there's the matter of having just one NCAA tournament win at a school with three national titles and a record 15 appearances in the Final Four.

"This season can't be considered a success just yet," Williams said. "We haven't done anything. We've won a few games in the regular season. It won't be a success until we've won a national championship."

Still, this season has been a source of pride for Manuel, who said the seniors have had a big role in bringing the program back to elite status.

"Sometimes I find myself daydreaming and just thinking, 'Wow, I can't believe how we've done this season,'" he said. "It's just a quick thought, and then it's time to move on."



North Carolina senior Melvin Scott cheers against Georgia Tech Jan. 12. The Tar Heel's seniors are finally enjoying the success they expected when signing with the school.

Former Iowa star charged

The Associated Press

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — Former Iowa basketball star Pierre Pierce was charged with assault and burglary Wednesday, a week after he was thrown off the team.

Pierce surrendered to police and was to appear in court later in the day on charges of first-degree burglary, two counts of domestic assault, assault with intent to commit sexual abuse, false imprisonment and criminal mischief.

His lawyer, Alfredo Parrish, said Wednesday his client intends to plead not guilty.

Pierce, the team's leading scorer, was kicked off the team after police confirmed he was the subject of an investigation into a matter at the townhouse of a former girlfriend.

Iowa coach Steve Alford said last week that Pierce "betrayed the trust we placed in him when he was given a second chance two years ago." Pierce was charged with third-degree sexual abuse in 2002. He later pleaded guilty to a lesser charge.

Iowa athletic officials have said Pierce will remain on scholarship through this spring and his academic status is not affected. Earlier, Parrish, said his 21-year-old client had not yet decided whether to stay at Iowa or transfer.

Cincinnati 0-for-3 on game-deciding shots

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — They can't get the last shot to go down.

Three times in the last three weeks, the 21-ranked Cincinnati Bearcats have had a chance to tie or win in the closing seconds.

All three times, they called a timeout, set up a play, came out and missed the shot.

It's fast becoming their epitaph.

The Bearcats (17-5) have become a long shot to win another Conference USA regular-season title because they fade at the end.

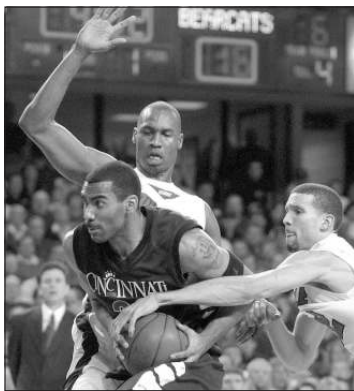
Arnein Kirkland missed a 15-foot jumper in the closing seconds of a 91-90 loss at Charlotte on Saturday, dropping Cincinnati into a three-way tie for fourth place.

"I just feel we shouldn't have been in that position in the first place," Kirkland said Monday. "We shouldn't have to be trying to win the game. We should already be in position where we don't have to depend on the last shot."

They seem to wind up in the same place.

The Bearcats blew a 17-point lead against Louisville on Jan. 15, falling behind 69-66. They had a chance to tie it with a three-point shot, but point guard Jihad Muhammad dribbled too long and wound up forcing a long shot that smacked harmlessly off the backboard at the buzzer.

A week later, power forward Jason Maxiell missed a baseline



Cincinnati's Arnein Kirkland missed a game-tying shot in the final seconds in a loss to Charlotte on Saturday. It was the third time in three weeks that the No. 21 Bearcats missed a key shot late in the game.

jumper, and Cincinnati was forced to foul in the closing seconds of a 74-70 loss to Wake Forest. The loss at Charlotte left them 0-for-3 on game-deciding shots.

"I don't understand why we haven't been able to be in better

position at the end of the game," Kirkland said. "Hopefully, we can turn that around starting Thursday."

Their annual rivalry game against Xavier (11-8) has turned into much more than a point of pride. The Bearcats can't afford

to dig themselves into a rut the way they did a year ago.

Cincinnati was coming off a three-point loss to Charlotte when it played Xavier last season. The Musketeers were only 10-9 at the time, struggling to find themselves. They fell behind by 11 in the opening minutes on their home court, then rallied for a 71-69 win that ended with another Bearcats miscue.

Lionel Chalmers hit a fade-away jumper over Eric Hicks with 27 seconds left, putting Xavier ahead. Cincinnati called a timeout, but couldn't even get off a last shot. Nick Williams' cross-court pass flew over Kirkland's head and landed out of bounds with 4.9 seconds left.

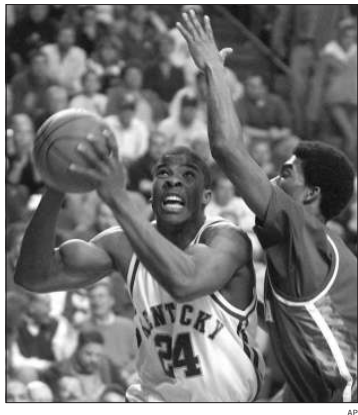
That loss sent the Bearcats into a funk — four losses in six games. They never fully recovered their swagger.

"That was a hard loss," Williams said Monday. "We felt we were the superior team. I think that loss really hurt everybody's confidence as a whole. I think it affected us the rest of the season."

By contrast, Xavier's come-from-behind win got the Musketeers on a roll that didn't end until the final digit of the NCAA tournament. That one game made all the difference for Xavier.

"Aw, man, did it!" Hicks said Monday. "I'm not trash-talking now, but if we can go ahead and win, maybe we can do like they did last year, get us going."

"We just need to get this bad taste out of our mouths. We've got a bad taste in our mouths right now."



Kentucky's Kelenna Azubuike tries to duck under the defense of Florida's Corey Brewer during the first half. Azubuike scored 18 points.

Kentucky maintains edge over Florida

The Associated Press

ALEXINGTON, Ky. — The Kentucky-Florida rivalry has been awfully one-sided lately.

Kelenna Azubuike scored 18 points and the fifth-ranked Wildcats rallied from a nine-point second-half deficit to beat Florida 69-66 on Tuesday night — Kentucky's eighth straight win over the Gators.

"I don't know if you can call it a rivalry," Florida junior Matt Walsh said, "until we win some. I've never beaten Kentucky."

The Wildcats (18-2, 9-0 Southeastern Conference) beat the Gators (14-6, 6-3) for the 10th time in 11 games. Kentucky holds a three-game lead in the SEC East over second-place Florida with seven games remaining.

Kentucky's streak against the Gators has spanned the gamut from the sublime — a 70-55 romp in 2003, when Florida was ranked No. 1 — to the ridiculous — scoring the final 11 points in a three-point win last season.

On Tuesday, it was more of the same. Florida, which routed then-No. 11 Alabama by 31 points on Saturday, looked to be in control against Kentucky as well, leading by 11 in the first half and by nine with 16:57 left.

But Kentucky scored 13 of the next 15 points to go ahead 47-45.

The Wildcats went ahead for good at 53-52 on Azubuike's three-pointer with 9:52 left and held the lead thanks in good measure to the play of Rajon Rondo, their freshman point guard.

The 6-foot-1 Rondo had 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists. He also helped shut down Anthony Roberson, the SEC's second-leading scorer, in the second half, when he had eight mostly meaningless points after scoring 15 in the first half.

Rondo, a 50 percent free-throw shooter, even went 8-for-10 from

Men's Top 25 Roundup

the line. Kentucky, which entered the game shooting 65.8 percent from the line, went 18-for-24 (75 percent) against the Gators.

Rondo "is quick enough to make Roberson work harder," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "After halftime, he figured out how to guard him."

Kentucky had only three second-half turnovers after committing eight in the first half.

Kentucky led 64-54 after a three-point play by Azubuike with 3:37 left. Florida came within four points with a minute left and had two chances to pull closer, but Walsh and Roberson each missed three-point attempts.

Chuck Hayes, who had 11 points and nine rebounds, made two free throws for Kentucky with 26 seconds left and Moss went 1-for-2 from the line with 10 seconds left, sealing the Wildcats' eighth straight win since a home loss to Kansas.

No. 18 Pittsburgh 55, St. John's 44: Chevon Troutman had 19 points for the Panthers (16-4, 6-3 Big East), who pulled away after leading 17-15 at halftime.

Darrell Hill had 18 points for St. John's (8-12, 2-8), which upset Pitt 65-62 in New York on Jan. 18. The Red Storm dropped to 0-8 on the road.

Colorado 88, No. 23 Texas 79: Richard Roby scored 22 points and the Buffaloes (12-9, 4-4 without a big second-half run) to beat Texas for the second time in nine games.

Brad Buckman had 27 points and 21 rebounds for the visiting Longhorns (15-7, 4-5), who have lost four of five and are down to seven scholarship players because of injuries and academics.

Brown rescues No. 1 Illinois, preserving perfect record

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Shots that normally go in for Illinois were bouncing on and off the rim. Loose balls the team usually corners were getting away. Dee Brown even mishandled a ball out of bounds on a fast break.

The top-ranked Illinois still couldn't be beat.

Brown scored 16 points and turned three straight steals into baskets, including the go-ahead three-point play, and Luther Head had 14 points to keep Illinois undefeated with a 57-51 victory over Michigan on Tuesday night.

"I'm blown away that people say you've got to lose to learn a lesson," Brown said. "I think we learned from Iowa, Indiana and this game."

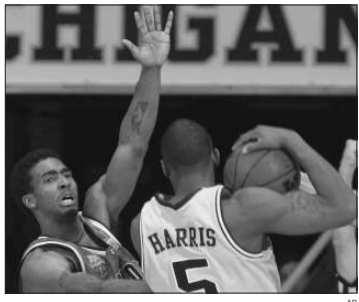
The Illini (24-0, 10-0 Big Ten) overcame a total collapse on offense — going nearly 12 minutes without a field goal and an eight-point deficit early in the second half to become the nation's only undefeated team. Previously unbeaten Boston College lost 68-65 at Notre Dame just minutes before Illinois finished off the Wolverines.

James Augustine, who scored 10 points, said it's only going to get more difficult to avoid a setback.

"Everyone is gunning for us," he said. "We're going to see this type of effort every game the rest of the way, but we've got a lot of motivation to keep this thing going."

Dan Harris had 21 points and seven rebounds for Michigan, while Courtney Sims scored 15 points and Chris Hunter had 10. The Wolverines (12-12, 3-7) have lost seven straight, their longest losing streak since the 1999-2000 season.

"We gave it all we had," Harris said. "Unfortunately, down the



Illinois guard Luther Head puts the pressure on Michigan guard Dion Harris in the second half. Head scored 14 points to help Illinois win.

stretch we had some costly turnovers, and we didn't make a lot of free throws."

The Wolverines were 7-for-14 at the line and had eight turnovers in the second half.

Daniel Horton, Michigan's standout point guard, missed his fifth straight game since being indefinitely suspended following a charge of domestic violence. Horton was scheduled for a pretrial hearing Wednesday morning.

Michigan coach Tommy Amaker was not satisfied with keeping it close against Illinois.

"It's still a loss," he said. "We're still disappointed."

Brown took over when Michigan was clinging to a 39-35 lead midway through the second half.

His three steals in just more than a minute led to three baskets, including the three-point play that gave Illinois the lead for good with 7:54 left.

"That was the differ-

ence-maker in the game, no doubt about it," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said.

Illinois, held to its lowest point total this season, proved again it can win without playing its best.

Two weeks ago, the Illini overcame an eight-point deficit in the second half to beat Wisconsin one game after Iowa pushed them to overtime. They scored just 60 in a victory over Indiana on Sunday.

"We've won a couple this year ugly," Brown said. "You just can't beat everyone by 20 or 15."

Michigan surprised the Illini by using much of the shot clock on most possessions.

"Tommy really pulled out all the stops," Weber said. "They changed their system."

Weber was proud of the way his players did what he wanted them to do in response to Michigan's slowdown tactics.

"They adapt within games. They're coachable within games," Weber said.

Streak: Falls' threes help fell Eagles

STREAK, FROM BACK PAGE

But Thomas ensured the Irish (14-6, 6-4) didn't have another meltdown, making four free throws in the final 1:11 to give Notre Dame a 66-59 lead.

"I just tried to smile and have fun out there," he said.

After Dudley scored inside with 30 seconds left, the Eagles forced a turnover and had a chance to cut the lead to two points.

But Dudley drove the lane and as he passed to Smith, he ran into Falls and was called for the offensive foul.

Every time Notre Dame needed a big basket, Falls hit a three-pointer. He hit two three's six minutes into the second half to give the Irish an 11-point lead, and when BC cut the lead to 54-41 with 8:25 left he hit another. He did it again when the Eagles cut the lead to three with 6:43 left.

"We had that refuse-to-lose mentality tonight," Falls said.

Falls was 7-for-12 on three-pointers, a career-best effort from outside the arc.

Coach Mike Brey said he was surprised how open Falls was at times.

"I was a little shocked they left him," he said. "But if they want to let him play horse, that's fine."

Chris Quinn and Dennis Latimore each added 10 points for the Irish.

Dudley scored 13 of his 16 points in the second half for BC and had 11 rebounds.

It was Notre Dame's first win over a Top 10 team since Feb. 9, 2004, an 80-74 victory over No. 5 UConn. But it was their second win over a ranked team in three games as they beat No. 19 Connecticut 78-74 on Jan. 30, and for the second straight home game students flooded the floor to celebrate.

The Eagles were the latest team to arrive at the Joyce Center undefeated and leave with a loss. The most famous Irish win over an unbeaten team occurred in 1974, when UCLA came in 13-0 and on an 88-game winning streak. The Bruins lost when the Irish outscored the Bill Walton-led Bruins 12-0 over the final 3:32 to win 71-70.

The Irish also beat a top-ranked UCLA team that was 14-0 in 1971; beat No. 1 San Francisco (29-0) in 1977; and beat top-ranked DePaul (25-0) in double overtime in 1980.

Skinner said the loss, coming at the start of eight days off, wasn't all bad.

"It definitely comes at a good time," he said. "It gives us a chance to get refocused, sit down and start again."

SPORTS



Browns make it official,
put Crennel in charge
of rebuilding, Page 26

Notre Dame ends BC streak

Eagles suffer same fate as UCLA, others in South Bend

BY TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Boston College found out what top-ranked teams UCLA, DePaul and San Francisco learned in years past — Notre Dame isn't where undefeated teams want to play.

Colin Falls matched his career high with 23 points, and Chris Thomas added 19 points and nine assists as the Irish ended the fourth-ranked Eagles' 20-game winning streak and handed them their first loss of the season, 68-65 Tuesday night.

Boston College junior Craig Smith said the loss had nothing to do with the pressure of trying to stay undefeated. The key was the Irish caught the Eagles a little off guard with their zone defense, then shot 51 percent themselves.

"They got us out of our offense because of their defense and due to the fact they also were hitting shots," he said. "When you're home, it's like that."

Smith, BC's leading scorer at 18.7 points a game, missed his final eight shots and finished 4-for-14 for nine points.

"We just made mistakes that allowed Notre Dame opportunities that we normally don't make. We have to learn from that," BC coach Al Skinner said. "The thing I'm most concerned about was our lapses on defense. We knew what we wanted to do, but at times we were just zoning out."

Skinner said the loss was disappointing, but it won't prevent the Eagles from accomplishing their goals.

"Being unbeaten, that's nice and all, but that's not our goal," he said. "Our goal is to be as successful as we can in the league. The fact of the matter is, we're in first place."

The Eagles (20-1, 9-1 Big East), playing their first game this season on national TV,



Boston College guard Sean Marshall (23) and Nate Doornekamp (13) watch from the bench as time runs out on their 20-game winning streak in South Bend, Ind. Notre Dame, which has a history of ending winning streaks at home, upset the No. 4 Eagles 68-65.

and top-ranked Illinois (24-0) were the only unbeaten teams left in Division I. The Illini are alone now, surviving a scare before beating Michigan 57-51 Tuesday night.

Louis Hinnant, who had 13 points, said the Eagles knew it would be tough to go un-

defeated in the Big East, even if they were the first team in conference history to start the season 20-0.

"We feel we don't have anything to hang our heads over," he said. "We just have to try to keep getting victories."

The Irish squandered an 11-point lead in

the final six minutes at No. 8 Syracuse on Saturday before losing 60-57. They held a 62-54 lead over Boston College, but the Eagles closed to 62-59 as Jared Dudley made two free throws and then converted a three-point play.

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With its
regulars on field,
United States
defeats
Trinidad & Tobago
in World Cup
soccer qualifier

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Source:
League
says deal
must

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weekend to save
hockey season

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Eagles' McNabb
disputes claims
of teammates
who said he was
so ill during
fourth quarter
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call a play

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Men's ski race postponed by TV workers strike Page 29

